



Monday

Boat people
Three years ago everyone knew about the "boat people", those pitiful refugees from the wars of South-East Asia. Today the exodus continues but the sympathy seems to have run out. William Shawcross reports.

High water mark
Modern Times goes messing about in boat to discover just what is so special for riverbank folk about Henley Royal Regatta.

Wimbledon
David Miller and Rex Bellamy report on the weekend matches and look ahead to the finals.

US budget setback for Reagan

The US Congress voted a budget programme to raise \$12 billion in new taxes in 1984 and cut by half the 10 per cent increase in defence urged by President Reagan. Page 11

Publisher quits

Mr Mark Collins, the last member of his family to serve on the board of William Collins & Sons, the publishers, has resigned his directorship and will not become chairman and chief executive of Hatchard's, the company's Piccadilly bookshop.

Murder hunt

An intruder battered to death two elderly widows in separate flats at a house in Plymouth. The police said the killings were vicious and cold-blooded. Page 3

Sotheby ruling

Mr Alfred Taubman's buying of shares in Sotheby's, the auction house, has been curtailed by a ruling from the Takeover Panel. Page 11

BL peace vote

Workers at BL's Cowley body plant voted in a secret ballot to accept the ending of "washing up-time" at the end of shifts. Back page

Afghan promise

Eight days of indirect talks in Geneva between Afghan and Pakistani delegations ended with what UN officials called "substantial progress".

Coroner's alarm

A coroner looking into the death of a woman near Farnham firing range said he was amazed that boundary boards were obscured. Jerry's visit, page 5

Narayan guilty

Mr Rudy Narayan, the black night barrister, has been found guilty of professional misconduct by the Bar Disciplinary Tribunal and ordered to be suspended for six weeks.

Chile strike

Chilean labour leaders yesterday claimed the national strike a success, but most people went to work normally unaware of it because of strict media censorship.

Banker riddle

Mr Dennis Skinner, the British banker who died in a fall in Moscow a week ago, was despatched to leave the Soviet Union.

Backing for PR

Mr Pier Dankert, President of the European Parliament, urged Britain to consider introducing proportional representation for next year's elections for the European Parliament.

Auction record

A painting by James Tissot of his mistress was sold at Christie's for £561,600, a record for a Victorian painting. Page 18

Coe beaten

Sebastian Coe was beaten in a 1,500 metres race in Paris last night by Jose-Luis Gonzalez of Spain. Coe was pushed off the track in the first 100 metres and finished second.

Business News, page 11

Leader page 9
Letters: On the "think tank" from Sir John Hookins and Mr David Howell, MP; mortgages, from Lord Young of Dartington; plant protection, from Dr F B O'Connor and Dr Max Wade. Leading articles: Legislation about rates; International Democratic Union; Youth training programme. Features, page 8
Why the Alliance should be more than an affair; Italian election scandals; enter the video telephone; Bolivar and the British.

Obituary, page 10
General Henri Navarre, Señor Osvaldo Díaz, Torrado, Professor Geoffrey Bond.

Arafat ordered out of Syria as PLO support fades

From Robert Fisk, Beirut
carrying leading articles which indirectly referred to the PLO leader as "the man who has joined the plotters against the Arab nation". There was no mistaking the message contained in these words: Syria has now set out to crush Mr Arafat's supporters.

There were, however, deeper implications. On Thursday night, Mr Arafat had travelled unexpectedly to Damascus from Lebanon to receive a personal letter President Andropov, who was trying to heal the rift in the PLO and give his own support to Mr Arafat. The Russians are now likely to be as angry as the PLO at Syria's treatment of the Palestinian leader, and those American officials who have encouraged President Assad's regimement now have to reassess their judgements.

Amid the drama of the last 24 hours, however, two salient points should not be forgotten: the capacity of radical Arab politicians soon to forget their most hostile words and resume "cordial and fraternal" relations, and the support which the PLO mutiny has from within the ranks of Mr Arafat's own Patah guerrilla movement.

It has become apparent over the past week that hundreds — perhaps thousands — of young PLO men are now dissatisfied with their commander and suspect that he is prepared to trick them into accepting President Reagan's Middle East peace plan. If Mr Arafat's internal support crumbles, then he may have to explain his condemnation of Syria and return to Damascus.

Even Mr Arafat's most senior military commander, Abu Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir) was told that he could not return to Syria from Lebanon.

The Syrians made no official statement but the state-controlled press in Damascus

Nevertheless, there can be no doubt the mood of desperation — perhaps panic would not be too extreme a word — among Mr Arafat's own officers. Speaking more like a besieged general than the Palestinian commander who defended west Beirut against the Israeli Army last summer, Mr Abu Jihad said in the Lebanese Bekaa town of Chouf yesterday that if his men were again attacked by Syrian troops or PLO rebels, "the order is every fighter to defend his place".

His words matched Mr Arafat's growing despair. When I met him amid darkened fields outside the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli at a night rendezvous this week, the PLO leader looked fatigued and several times raised his hands to his face when he objected to some of the questions I asked him about the mutiny and the future of the PLO.

In Damascus yesterday he described suggestions that his leadership might be in doubt as "a joke". Asked about Syria's denial of any involvement in the PLO mutiny, he said: "That's another joke".

Among his retinue there is a suspicion that yesterday's ambush on the Horns road — assuming it occurred as the PLO say — might have been intended for none other than Mr Arafat himself.

Begins move
Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has agreed to consider referring the doctors' pay dispute to arbitration, in a move to end the strike

By Henry Stanshope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, fresh from her victories in Britain and Europe, turned yesterday to the rest of the world where she helped to launch the International Democrat Union (IDU) in London — a kind of right-wing answer to the Socialist International. It would be, she hoped, "not an empire, but a great dominion of mind and spirit".

The two airlines have been facing subpoenas in a US Justice Department investigation, which is collecting evidence for an anti-trust case.

In a related civil case in the US, the Laker liquidator is pursuing a \$1.7bn suit alleging conspiracy to drive Laker Airways out of business. British Airways and British Caledonian are among the airlines involved in this suit.

The government action taken yesterday under the Protection of Trading Interests Act, effectively bans any documents or information within Britain from being made available for "any proceedings" in the US.

British airlines have already complied with a Justice Department subpoena last week for US-located documents requested as part of the criminal investigation, according to a British embassy official in Washington.

The declaration of principles calls for the championing of a "free, open and democratic society which enables everyone to achieve his full potential, to contrast overrule and occupied Afghanistan and ruined poisonous chemicals on the innocent peoples of both Afghanistan and South-East Asia. In Poland the Soviets have backed the brutal suppression of human rights."

The Pope's visit proved that although the Soviets can suppress rights they can never suppress courage.

Next came a press conference at which the IDU adopted the somewhat Kremlin-like tactic of demanding written questions in advance. Demand outstripped supply and at least one disgruntled reporter complained that his question had not been called.

Leading article, page 9

Conservatives of the world unite

By Henry Stanshope, Diplomatic Correspondent

It girdles the earth.

She went on: "Today we must launch a vigorous and dedicated campaign to bring freedom and justice to those who do not have them. We must use our joint resources to help bring the benefits of economic prosperity to developing countries.

"If the Third World or parts of it looked in the past to Moscow for economic aid and support they have largely ceased to do so. They have seen the new imperialism in operation in eastern Europe.

Mr Bush took the opportunity to defend US policy in Central America, a theme which is expected to dominate his current tour of Western countries. The US was providing military assistance to help to resist subversion by forces " beholden to totalitarian powers".

He said: "The Soviet Union, democracy's main opponent, has been overtaken and occupied Afghanistan and ruined the innocent peoples of both Afghanistan and South-East Asia. In Poland the Soviets have backed the brutal suppression of human rights."

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Leading article, page 9

Three die in motorway coach crash

Two women and a man died, and 21 were injured, 12 seriously, when a Midland Red express coach from Birningham to Worcester skidded and rolled down an embankment on the M5 motorway between Bromsgrove and Droitwich yesterday. Last night doctors feared the death toll might rise.

The bus ended up on its roof and had been concertined down one side. Most of the injuries were suffered by passengers trapped at the back.

Mr Brian Barnes, a lorry driver, said that the accident

happened on the two-lane stretch of the motorway junctions 4 and 5. He added: "When the bus driver braked because of the caravan in front, the bus just skidded broadside and then went down the embankment backwards."

He added: "It was a bloody mess. There were little children crying for their mothers, and we made an elderly couple comfortable on seats pulled from the bus."

Under an ominous sky, play started later than scheduled when drizzle abated just after 2.30 pm. Mrs Lloyd emerged for what should have been an exercise counter against her fellow American, Miss Jordan, aged 23, who had never beaten her before. An hour and forty minutes later she left a stunned No 1 court beaten 6-1, 7-6.

It emerged afterwards that Mrs Lloyd was suffering from a suspected virus infection, which undoubtedly affected her game.

Mrs Lloyd, however, with



Despair: Mr Arafat hides his face from a searching question.

Challenger flight ends with a hug

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The space shuttle Challenger completed its successful six-day mission with a perfect landing at Edwards Air Force base in California yesterday.

It glided in over the Pacific after 98 orbits of the Earth and, 45 minutes after landing, the five blue-suited astronauts emerged with broad smiles.

Sally Ride, aged 32, America's first woman in space, received an affectionate pat on her back from one of her crewmates, and a hug from another.

The Californian touchdown was the only disappointment of a remarkable journey. Cloudy weather forced a late change in the plan to land a shuttle for the first time at Cape Canaveral.

The good news is that the beer is cold." Challenger's crew were told by Mission Control. "The bad news is that it is 3,000 miles away in Florida."

The big public welcome was also in Florida, along with the beer.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) was looking for a Florida landing so that the expense of bringing the shuttle across country would be saved.

The preparation time for shuttle flights has already been reduced during the seven shuttle missions from 750 days to 63, but Nasa wants an even faster turn-round.

The switch of landing places gave the five Challenger astronauts an extra two orbits of the earth. Commander Robert Crippen fired breaking rockets to slow the spacecraft from 17,400 mph and to bring it down from its 184-mile high orbit.

Commander Crippen, who landed the first shuttle, Columbia, in 1981, piloted the 100-ton craft in a wide loop over the Mojave desert before landing in a cloud of dust at 6.57am local time, 2.57pm BST.

A pall of smoke more than 1,000ft high could be seen for miles and flames leapt hundreds of feet. It took 140 firemen four hours to control the blaze.

The warehouse at Europe's biggest army stores depot held textiles, bedding, vehicle batteries and some other technical equipment. The base does not hold ammunition, other than small arms rounds for use in its own defence. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Chilcott said "explosions" heard by local people were the sound of the roof crashing in or containers bursting in the intense heat.

Part of a bronze Russian cannon which is used for casting Victoria Crosses is kept at the depot, but was well away from the fire.

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Import surge causes £552m deficit

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of overseas trade sank further into the red last month as imports soared to record levels. The latest official figures show a deficit of £552m last month, the biggest drop for more than four years, after a deficit of £360m in April and a surplus of £384m in March.

The latest deterioration is due largely to special factors, but the underlying trends suggest that Britain's slow recovery from recession is already attracting large quantities of imports, while exports have remained steady.

This year the surplus on current account, including invisible trade such as banking, insurance and shipping, has amounted to only £35m, compared with the Treasury's budget forecast for the full year of £150m, while the visible trade deficit has topped £140m.

The current account showed a deficit of £302m last month from £10m in April, after taking account of an estimated £20m surplus in invisible trade.

But the rise in imports of manufactures, especially consumer goods which are 9 per cent up by volume on last year's average, is more worrying.

On the foreign exchanges the news clipped just over a quarter of a cent from an earlier gain for the pound.

Army depot fire costs millions

By a Staff Reporter

A multi-million pound fire destroyed a 10-acre storage warehouse at the Royal Ordnance Depot, Donnington, Shropshire, yesterday. No one was hurt.

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Yorkshire Ripper's wife joins protest at former police chief's memoirs

By Kenneth Gosling

Mrs Sonia Szurma-Sutcliffe, the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, yesterday joined in the mounting protest over the publication in a Sunday newspaper, beginning this weekend, of the memoirs of Mr Ronald Gregory, former chief constable of West Yorkshire, who led the hunt for Peter Sutcliffe.

The Press Council will also consider the matter, probably next month.

Mrs Szurma-Sutcliffe said she was bitterly opposed to anyone making money out of her husband's crimes. In a statement through her solicitor she said: "I am against the principle of anyone making money out of this I never have and never want to gain any financial benefit and I do not see why anyone should."

Although it was reported yesterday that Mr Gregory was to receive £40,000 from *The Mail on Sunday* for the three-part serialization, it was believed last night that the figure is nearer £50,000.

Journalists at *The Mail on Sunday* yesterday rejected an appeal by Mr Jacob Ecclestone, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, not to "handle or promote any material" by or on behalf of Mr Gregory.



Mrs Szurma-Sutcliffe:
Matter of principle

It was said, on behalf of Mr Stewart Steven, the editor: "There is no round figure available. He is being paid as a consultant."

The newspaper stood by a statement on Thursday by Mr Steven that the story it is to publish is about an investigation, and what went wrong during the course of it, rather than a salacious story of brutal murders.

Mr Gregory, who lives in Wakefield, was said to have gone away yesterday.

Mrs Doreen Hill, mother of the Ripper's last victim, has written to the Home Secretary and to the Press Council asking for an investigation into the publication of the memoirs.

Solicitors acting for Mrs Hill are considering suing Mr Gregory and the West Yorkshire police for alleged negligence and incompetence in the search for the killer if anything is published. They have told her there are no legal grounds for seeking an injunction to prevent the planned publication tomorrow.

In a question in the European Parliament next week, Dr Barry Seal, European MP for Yorkshire West, will call for new laws to stop former public employees profiting from information gained in their jobs.

Welsh-only minutes fox councillor

By Tim Jones

Mr Dafydd Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, has condemned the action of a Gwynedd community council which has voted to deny copies of council meetings in English to its only member who is not fluent in Welsh.

Mr Thomas said: "We cannot on the one hand argue for rights for Welsh speakers in mainly English-speaking areas while appearing to deny rights to English speakers in strong Welsh-speaking areas."

Mr Ciano, a Londoner who has lived in the village for 10 years, said yesterday: "I am very hurt by this decision

because I have made every effort to learn Welsh."

"I am active in local community projects and frequently begin meetings in the Welsh language. Unfortunately my command of the language is not yet sufficient to read the advanced Welsh in which the minutes are presented."

Dr Ieuan Parri, explained that as the council's official language was Welsh it had made a concession to Mr Ciano when he became a member four years ago.

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Yard tries to verify 'Vorticist' paintings

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Art and Antiques Squad at Scotland Yard is investigating the background to a group of drawings and paintings which appear to be fakes and nearly fooled Sotheby's and Christie's. They are by Vorticist artists, Britain's avant garde version of Cubism which had its heyday around 1912.

Christie's had intended to hold an auction of Vorticist drawings and paintings next week. The sale had been advertised but it was cancelled before the catalogue was printed. Sotheby's had two drawings in its sale on May 25 which appear to come from a similar source and were withdrawn before the auction.

Mr Francis Farmer, of Christie's, said yesterday that a vendor from the provinces had

Lines for the Poet Laureate

The Poet Laureate had a train named after him yesterday. At St Pancras Station in London, a red plaque on electric locomotive 86229 which read "Sir John Betjeman" was unveiled.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, said Sir John's interest in trains and in the British heritage had made him a keeper of the nation's conscience. He quoted some of the poet's lines on railways:

The Old Great Western makes

The Old Great Western spins

The Old Great Western makes me

very sorry for my sins.

A special "Betjeman Pullman" with tickets costing £10, travelled to Bedford and back to mark the occasion.

One painting was examined more carefully; when unrolled it smelt strongly of size; a water-based paint had been used on canvas which seemed surprising; the paint, though discoloured on the surface, did not appear to have absorbed any dirt.

After the ceremony the poet's son, Paul, a music teacher in New York, said that his father had always been very interested in trains and travelled by them whenever he could. "He liked the small lines which went from country stations". Sir John, who was in a wheelchair, was not well enough to make a speech.

The prosecution said he had been advised by the Director of Public Prosecutions to drop the case.

Mr Betjeman, now a British citizen living in the Bahamas, said: "I hope this gift will encourage others to play their part in making Oxford a centre of excellence in the study of management relevant to people's lives everywhere."

Rhodes scholar's £3m for management centre

By Lucy Hedges, Education Correspondent

A former Rhodes scholar is graduate hall, endow new fellowships, extend its research facilities and offer scholarships for first-class British postgraduates seeking management careers.

It prepares students from a wide range of disciplines for doctorates and other postgraduate degrees, and teaches management to undergraduate engineers and metallurgists. It provides special courses for senior and fast-rising executives and specialists in specific topics such as the management of electronic information systems.

Mr Templeton, now a British citizen living in the Bahamas, said: "I hope this gift will encourage others to play their part in making Oxford a centre of excellence in the study of management relevant to people's lives everywhere."

The centre is looking for more gifts with which to build a

Case against PC dropped

Police Constable John Forshaw, aged 21, of Court Hope Road, Walton, Liverpool, who had been accused of riding a cycle without due care after an accident in which a man was killed, was discharged by Mr Norman Wootton, a stipendiary magistrate in Liverpool yesterday.

The prosecution said he had been advised by the Director of Public Prosecutions to drop the case.

Mr Martin, aged 36, of Marylebone, London, dispensed with the services of his barrister and solicitor when he appeared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. The Recorder of London, Sir James Miskin QC, said his decision was "unwise".

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Building for Edinburgh tattoo must be quieter

Miss Elizabeth Webster (right) yesterday won her court battle to stop noisy preparations for next year's Edinburgh military tattoo on the tarmac esplanade, but preparations for this year's tattoo, which takes place in August, will go ahead.

The judge also ruled that a Scotswoman's flat was still her castle, although he said an English judge had suggested that an Englishman's home was no longer his castle.

Lord Stott at the Court of Session in Edinburgh granted interdict to Miss Webster, aged 25, a secretary, whose top flat at 14 Ramsay Garden, Edinburgh, is at the corner of the castle esplanade.

Under the court order the tattoo policy committee is banned from preparing the event in such a manner as to cause noise nuisance. The judge said that evidence had left him in no doubt that in the interests of Edinburgh and of Scotland as a whole it would be desirable that the tattoo should be allowed to continue.

Lord Stott said that one of the greatest sources of disturbance, according to evidence, was the "application of steel on steel" during the erection of stands. That went on from early June, seven days a week, between 8am and 8pm until the start of the tattoo in August.

The judge said: "Lord Denning's suggestion in an English case that an Englishman's home is no longer his castle cannot in my opinion be correct. The judge should be allowed to continue.

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Girl, 8, tells of moment she was shot



By David Hewson
Emma Breen, the Surrey girl aged eight who was hit in the leg by a bullet as she stood in her school playground, yesterday described the moment she was shot.

She said as she sat in hospital: "I felt as if something had smacked my hand and I fell over. I thought that a stone had come up and hit me. It still stings a bit but I feel all right now."

She was taken to Friern Park Hospital with what was thought to be a superficial cut. It was only when she was taken back the next evening that an X-ray showed the bullet.

Surry police confirmed yesterday that it was a nine millimetre bullet of the type they were using for handgun practice.

The girl, who was shot at Camberley by what is thought to have been a stray round from a range near Pirbright, a mile away was sitting in a wheelchair yesterday recovering after surgeons removed the bullet.

Mrs Ann Burn, the head teacher of the school said that she had banned pupils from playing in the field where Emma Breen was hit. "We moved the children away from playing in the field. I did not allow them back in the grounds until the police had told me that all firing on the ranges had been banned."

Mr John Breen, aged 35, the girl's father, said that he supported the decision by the

Two widows battered to death in their flats

From Craig Seton,
Plymouth

Eighty detectives and more than 100 uniformed police officers are looking for a killer who battered to death two elderly widows as they sat in their armchairs in separate flats at a house in Plymouth.

The police described the killing of Mrs Gwendoline Lloyd and Mrs Olive Spy, both aged about 80, as extremely vicious and cold-blooded.

The Edwardian terraced house, in the Plymouth bedsitting room area, had not been broken into and nothing appeared to have been stolen. Detectives are considering the possibility that the killer might have been known to the two women.

A football pools collector raised the alarm on Thursday night after seeing one of the bodies. The police found both women with severe head injuries inflicted by repeated blows from a blunt instrument.

The last person to see the women alive was a home hairdresser who had called to see Mrs Lloyd at midday.

The police are making house-to-house inquiries and have spoken to pupils at Plymouth College, a private school immediately opposite the house, in Ford Park Road.

Mrs Spy owned the house, which she shared with her friend Mrs Lloyd. Mrs Spy, who lived on the upstairs flat, was nearly blind and was badly crippled by arthritis. Like Mrs Lloyd, she had a serious heart condition.

Neighbours said the women rarely went out and would never have opened the door to a stranger. Both women received meals on wheels. Even their friends had to knock or ring the doorbell a specified number of times to be allowed in.

Mrs Janet Fookes Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, in whose constituency the murders took place, yesterday visited police headquarters in Plymouth.

Shooting victim: Emma Breen recovering in hospital after being hit in the leg by a bullet.

Jury sees death range

The jury hearing evidence at the inquest on Mrs Sheila Wenham, aged 50, of Pine Wood, Sunbury, who died after being hit in the head by a stray bullet on April 20, yesterday visited the Pirbright firing range where the incident happened.

They were told that the range was used that day by the Third Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Lt William Buckley, who had overall responsibility for the firing, said that it would be difficult to hit the hilltop if one was firing straight down the field firing range.

Mrs Wenham was hit on Chair Hill and the officer said:

"It was one of the features which marked where the edge of the danger area was. Nothing was fired in the direction of Chair Hill and when targets were set up I had in mind the best safety areas."

He added that he did not think the flag on the hilltop could have been mistaken for one of those which marked the area of fire on the range.

Asked by the coroner about strikes on trees in the closed battle area where live ammunition should not be used, he said they had not been caused by any of his soldiers.

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Renewed pledge on preserving strong NHS

From Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent, Harrogate

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday that the Government had no intention of dismantling the National Health Service.

"A strong health service funded mainly from taxation will remain the backbone of health care in this country", he told the annual conference in Harrogate of the National Association of Health Authorities in England and Wales.

The NHS was absolutely indispensable to the provision of health care in Britain, and the Government's commitment to it was clear and unequivocal.

"There has been a great deal of talk about hidden manifestos and the threat of an attack on the welfare state. That is simply not true", Mr Fowler said. Much of the political debate during the election campaign had been "senseless, damaging and unnecessary".

It was the first important health conference to be addressed by Mr Fowler since the election, but he failed to reassure many health authority administrators and chairmen on the Government's intentions towards the NHS.

His statement did little to convince some of the 500 delegates that the Government has no intention of changing to a different system of financing, in spite of his categorical denial.

A member of Oxfordshire Regional Health Authority, which has gone further than most in trying to cut services to

£25,000 for attack by horse

Ranching of salmon warning

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mrs Joanne Starling, the victim of an attack by a horse which was said to have a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality, was awarded £25,000 damages in the High Court for her injuries.

Deputy Judge Denis Henry QC held that the five-year-old gelding, Rami, had a "propensity to attack humans" when he was loose on the North Kent marshes, although he was well-behaved elsewhere.

The award to Mrs Starling, mother of two, of St Luke's Way, Allhallows, near Rochester, was against Rami's breeder and former owner, Mrs Irene Hodgetman, of Spinney Road, Allhallows, who had denied responsibility.

In his judgment, the judge said he had heard evidence that the horse had in the past attacked six people on Pilot Marsh, Allhallows. Mrs Hodgetman denied she had been told of the incidents, but the judge decided that the manner of the grazing land, had told her.

On January 14, 1980, Mrs Starling was visiting her own pony when she heard Rami behind her. He reared up and one of his hooves smashed her right knee. While she was on the ground the horse stood over her, pawing and kicking her. She could no longer pursue her favourite sports of sailing, squash, tennis, walking, and diving.

PARLIAMENT June 24 1983

Parkinson outlines role of government in promoting industrial expansion

QUEEN'S SPEECH

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Chairman of the Conservative Party, in his first speech in the Commons since being appointed Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, sought to reassure Post Office workers about their future job prospects.

Resuming the debate in the Commons on the Queen's Speech, he said the Post Office Engineering Union was naturally concerned about future prospects for its members in British Telecom.

The arrangements, which had been discussed with the Government, were an example of the basis on which collaboration with Japan could be mutual benefit.

The role of government and his department was to ensure that industry was in a position to benefit from the upturn in the economy, and his ambition had been well summarised in Thursday's leader in *The Times* which said:

"If Britain's economic performance is to take advantage of the next two or three years' growth in world output it needs to be reinvigorated by legislation to break down rigidities and monopolies wherever they exist in the public sector, in trade union practices in business, in taxation and in administration."

In this country (he said) we have accumulated a sorry collection of what *The Times* calls rigidities. One such rigidity which has been so damaging to our industrial performance is the division between those who own our companies, those who manage them and others who work in them.

Another had been the division between the two sides of industry, management and other employees, in many competitor nations those two sides did not exist, both were working unambiguously on the same side for the same goals.

The Government had spread ownership of industry more widely, had encouraged share ownership in private industry, and made employee ownership schemes an essential part of its privatization programme. He was pledged to carry that work much further.

In doing so (he said) I am aware of battling against decades of grievous harm done to our industries by the mythology of the Labour Party. An essential part of every Labour victory, and if they carry on they have best recently, is to prey on jealousy and division, to perpetuate class conflict in industry where none need have

competition in the economy. He was heartened by the warm response to the merger from many people in all sections of industry.

The decision by General Motors to invest £70m in their Bedford commercial vehicle operation at Luton, Bedfordshire was a further sign of the upturn.

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Eagleburger claims US policy is helping to change South Africa

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Reaffirming the US policy of "constructive engagement" towards South Africa, a senior Administration official has rejected calls for American companies to divest themselves of holdings in that country and has criticized attempts by Congress to increase economic pressure on the white-ruled republic.

While denouncing apartheid as "morally wrong", Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, predicted that South Africa's system of racial segregation would eventually crumble and it was crucial for the US to ensure the change was peaceful rather than violent.

Mr Eagleburger had words of caution for the changes which have taken place in South Africa recently, noting that the constitutional proposals now being considered represented "the first step towards extending national political rights beyond the white minority".

Mr Eagleburger's speech on Thursday night was the Administration's most comprehensive statement on southern Africa in two years. The speech contained no new initiatives, but was rather an attempt to show that American policy - which has been widely criticized as being "soft" on apartheid - was helping to accelerate the process of change.

US sources have been saying privately that an agreement on a Cuban troop withdrawal is near. However, they have expressed

fears that South Africa may not, largely for domestic political reasons, be able to agree to a similar pull-back from Namibia.

Supremacist Guilty: Eugene Terre Blanche, leader of an ultra-right white supremacists group, was convicted in Johannesburg yesterday of illegally possessing arms and ammunition.

Mr Terre Blanche and a former member of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner resistance movement) had pleaded not guilty to the charges, claiming left-wingers had planted the weapons to frame the group.

Sentencing was expected later after arguments in mitigation.

Mr E D Wythe, the regional magistrate of the Klerksdorp local court near Johannesburg, rejected the claim. He said Mr Terre Blanche and the other defendant, Mr Jacob Daniel Viljoen, would have informed police if the weapons had indeed been planted.

The men were found guilty of illegally possessing an AK-47 assault rifle, 362 rounds of ammunition and a .22-calibre revolver.

Mr Viljoen and two other former group members were convicted earlier this month of separate charges under South Africa's terrorism laws and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Despite reports that he would be removed from his post, and a last-minute attempt to force him to reconsider, the head of the Buenos Aires province police went ahead with a violently-worded speech on Thursday. He delivered an open challenge to the courts which have brought charges against his officers.

General Fernando Ezequiel

Verplaetse, the active service Army officer who heads the provincial police, was reacting to the latest court moves against three of his officers, accused of murdering two men, Señor Osvaldo Cambiaso and Señor Eduardo Pereira Rossi, on May 14 this year.

A local judge ordered the arrest of the policemen after hearing evidence that both

victims had been kidnapped, possibility tortured, and shot.

Early on Thursday, Buenos Aires was full of rumours that General Verplaetse would be forced to resign. The presidential spokesman was forced to deny the impending resignation of General Llamil Reston, the Interior Minister.

It was also revealed that a senior Interior Ministry official was dispatched by helicopter to the provincial capital of La Plata, where General Verplaetse was due to deliver his speech, in an unsuccessful last-minute attempt to get him to moderate his words.

General Verplaetse described the three arrested officers as "three brave young men from our ranks".

Campaign trial: Signor Ciriaco De Mita, secretary of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, responding to cheers at the end of a speech in Genoa. Voting begins tomorrow. Campaign scandals, page 8.

Buenos Aires police chief challenges courts

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

EEC and America leave farm gate open

From Bailey Morris
Washington

US and European negotiators have concluded six months of difficult agricultural negotiations without resolving fundamental differences but have left the door open for a possible solution.

Officials from both sides agreed in Washington on Thursday to set up an informal working group on the issue of agricultural subsidies which brought them close to a trade war.

The bilateral working group will review government subsidies and other forms of agricultural assistance with the aim of clarifying trade moves to prevent future confrontations.

Declaring themselves "moderately satisfied", officials from both sides said the first phase of the talks had gone as far as possible in resolving the dispute.

Privately, officials said they had found a face-saving way of preventing an outbreak of hostilities without resolving any of the fundamental complaints.

The European Community gave little in response to US demands that the EEC begin dismantling export subsidies contained in its common agricultural policy (CAP).

European negotiators, led by M Claude Villain, the EEC's director-general for agriculture, said substantive changes in the CAP were unlikely.

Air chief tells of sabotage suspicion

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The officer who headed the Zimbabwe Air Force board of inquiry into the Thornhill sabotage said in the high court here yesterday that he had been very suspicious of an officer whose evidence to the board did not stand up to scrutiny and who could not properly account for himself.

Air Commodore Philip File, the second accused and the last to give evidence in the continuing trial of six officers charged with complicity in the sabotage, said he had also considered recommending that three officers be court-martialled because of gross security derelictions at the base just before the sabotage.

Air Commodore File, aged 43, was born in London and having joined the Air Force here in 1956, was appointed air adviser at the Zimbabwe High Commission in London for a year after independence.

In evidence on Thursday he denied that the board had, as the state asserted, been rigged to divert attention from those responsible. It had been appointed "by Air Marshal Norman Walsh, then ZAF Commander, on the day of the sabotage, July 25, to include an army observer and had passed all evidence to the police.

It never completed its deliberations because he and another member, Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, who is also in the dock, had been arrested.

Air Commodore File said the board had heard evidence from an Air Lieutenant Moyo who was absent from duty for an hour and a half on the day of the sabotage, although he was station duty officer. Air Lieutenant Moyo had told the board that the previous day he and another officer had taken

parts.

Hongkong tombstones torn down

From Richard Hughes
Hongkong

Hongkong has been suddenly confronted with a strange outbreak of vandalism in some of its 10 public cemeteries. For the first time gates are being closed reluctantly at 7pm.

By Chinese tradition only wicked ghosts would destroy gravestones - 80 of which were dragged down one night in the Colonial Cemetery, while inexplicable damage has been reported in other public cemeteries.

The Urban Services Department, which is responsible for control of the cemeteries, has written to the known addresses of relatives of some of the deceased whose graves were despoiled, but has received no response so far - although the family names are clear on most of the ruins.

Many of the desecrated graves date back to pre-war days and it is difficult to contact relatives. Those relatives, however, must pay for restoring the graves.

"The Government will not pay," a government official said. "Under law, the Government is not liable for compensation or cost in such cases."

Anyway - except in remote cemeteries outside the city which are too rambling to be enclosed - the urban cemeteries will now be locked up against nocturnal visits by relatives after sunset.

Asean asks Vietnam to pull back

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

The sixteenth annual meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) which opened here yesterday is at the centre of extensive diplomatic activity to end the conflict in Cambodia.

That issue is the main concern of the ministers from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, and will dominate their discussions next week with counterparts from Western nations and Japan.

The ministers supported a Thai proposal that Vietnam should move its forces 20 miles back from the Thai-Cambodian border. Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Sawasila, the Thai Foreign Minister, said the pull-back would lessen the threat to Thailand and would be more meaningful than Vietnam's so-called partial troop withdrawal.

The five ministers admit that they are not optimistic about obtaining a favourable response from Hanoi. Air Chief Marshal Siddhi dispelled any hope that there had been some progress towards a settlement in Cambodia. He said his talks with Mr Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnam's Foreign Minister, two weeks ago had got nowhere.

"The Government will not pay," a government official said. "Under law, the Government is not liable for compensation or cost in such cases."

The Thai minister said that the basis of ASEAN policy was Vietnam's withdrawal followed by free elections for Cambodia and its restoration as a sovereign, independent and non-aligned nation.

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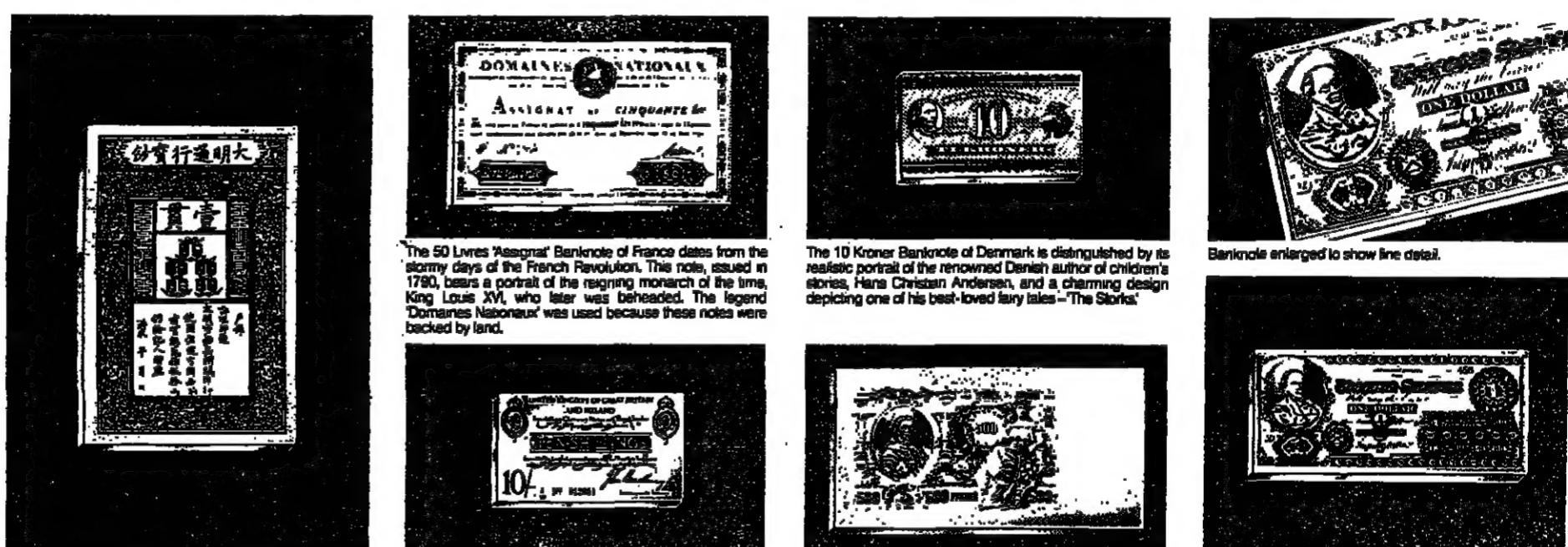
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Campaign trial: Signor Ciriaco De Mita, secretary of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, responding to cheers at the end of a speech in Genoa. Voting begins tomorrow. Campaign scandals, page 8.

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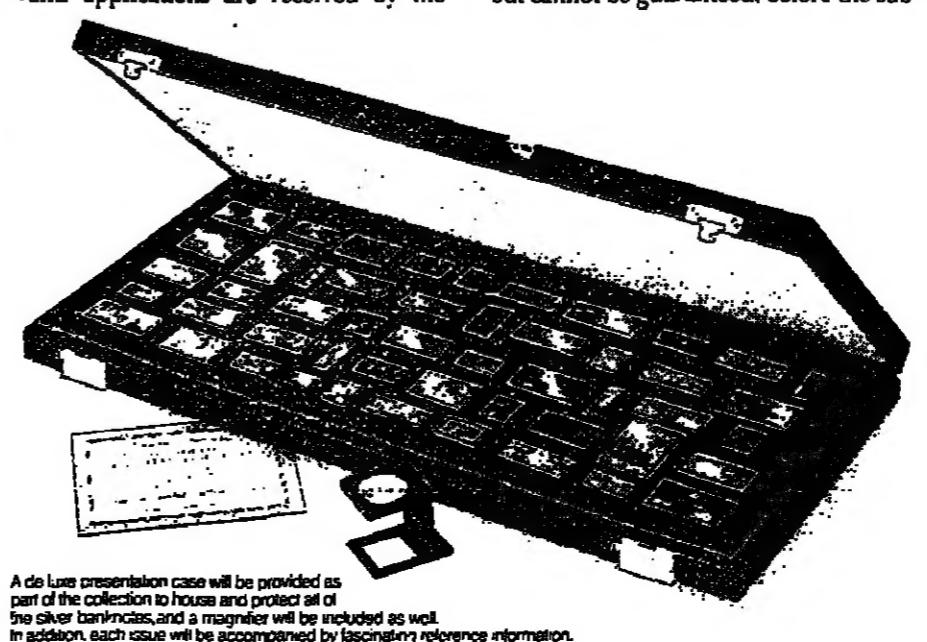
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1000 1500

Borderlines

Polish listeners to the BBC's overseas service - a third of the country's entire population, I am told - have found a way of getting letters to Bush House past General Jaruzelski's subversion-sniffers. One recent letter, acknowledging receipt of an "English by Radio" package, said it had been opened by the authorities - quite properly - in case it contained underground material or a bomb. The second paragraph spoke of "the warmongering Mrs Thatcher's hatred for peace-loving communist countries", the next blamed the BBC "for what is happening in Poland today". The writer went on: "That should be enough incentive to get past the censor: now to business..."

Bearing Crosses

Yet more from Jesus College, Oxford. It transpires that the former chaplain, whose name was Cross and who answered the phone, "Cross of Jesus", was but one of a trinity of namesakes there. I owe this knowledge to that most reliable rememberer, Harold Wilson, also a Jesus man, who tells me the other two Crosses were the steward of the senior common room and a philosopher from St Andrews University. Wilson says it all became rather confusing and the following nomenclature was devised: the chief steward became Hot Cross, the philosopher St Andrews Cross and the chaplain Holy Cross.

More still. Now the headmaster of Downside, Philip Jebb, tells me he recently asked directory inquiries for the number of Christ's College, Cambridge; the voice at the other end said she could not find Christ's, but would Jesus do? Jebb then found out that she was spelling Christ's without the "h". I expect all these tales to be trumped by the new St Cross College, and await a flood, nay, a book of revelations.

Whale met

Conservationists are often in danger of taking things a little too seriously. At the Camden Arts and Music Festival, which opened this week, there was a dramatization of Melville's *Moby Dick*, complete with great white whale, when who should turn up in force but members of Greenpeace, which takes a dim view of harpooning. In fact they had not come to protest, simply to take up temporary residence in one of the 30 Camden Arts Workshops.

Sweden's King Carl Gustaf, who has already been stripped of all his powers by a Social Democratic government, was yesterday submitted to yet another indignity: a leading article in the main Stockholm paper *Dagens Nyheter* suggested that the royal family be turned into a state-owned company and made to pay its own way.

BARRY FANTONI



Taking the Mick

A surprise spectator at the annual cricket match between *The Times* Literary Supplement and publishers on Thursday was a certain Michael Jagger, singer. He was seated at a table with his ghost autobiography, John Ryle, deputy literary editor of *The Sunday Times*, whose task has not been made easy by Jagger's less than precise memory of a different way of life. The two were sipping through a pile of Ryle's draft pages, but one of the countless PHOTOS at the Shepherds Bush ground tells me Jagger seemed rather more interested in the cricket.

In the picture

Agitation in arts and heritage circles over the Government's failure to appoint an arts spokesman in the Commons seems to be the result of difficulty in finding a suitable candidate. One minister is understood to have turned down the post already. Hopes are now being pinned on John Biffen, who, as well as having the necessary clout as a senior Cabinet minister, was until recently a trustee of the National Forum Gallery.

Harassed press officers at the Wimbledon tennis championships have been cracking down on friends and relatives of the press corps borrowing official passes to get a glimpse of McEnroe and Co. A considerable number of impostors have been "arrested" and ejected from the press boxes including pregnant wives and young children. The press office prize catch, however, was the young son of Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*.

PHS

When an affair is not enough

by Alastair Brett

Looking back on the election, committed Alliance supporters are wondering if the miracle can be pulled off again. For miracle it was. Two fiercely independent parties had agreed on a joint manifesto and a prime minister designate.

More than 600 constituencies had been carved up, with the rank and file falling into step behind their leaders in every case but three. With 7.7 million votes, the Alliance seemed assured of a dazzling future.

But in spite of its shiny exterior, the Alliance is an unwieldy craft and the task of keeping it afloat and sorting out its mechanical problems is frighteningly complex. It took months of drafting, hours of discussion and meetings well into the night for the manifesto to emerge. It took almost a year of hard bargaining, some acrimony, and not a little in-fighting for agreement on constituency allocation.

With European elections due next year, but with little or no prospect of proportional representation for those or future Westminster elections, the two parties are seriously having to consider a merger - or, at the very least, how to prolong what purists in the two camps have come to regard as an adulterous relationship forced on them by the wicked first-past-the-post electoral system.

The alternative, given the hairline cracks which have appeared since the election, will be a temptation for those associations which are forging ahead with local politics to adopt their own parliamentary or Euro candidate irrespective of the wishes of the other party in the Alliance.

Prompective Liberal candidates were prepared to stand down last time to cement

the Alliance and because the Steel master plan was seen as the best chance of breaking the two-party system. They will be less willing to do so again because of the belief, though not the fact, that on June 9 the SDP was less attractive to voters.

Without some sort of merger the process of deciding which party's candidate is most likely to win a seat can too easily become an eye-scratching local beauty contest with the Association of Liberal Councillors, a defiantly independent body and thorn in Steel's side, playing a key role. In all three constituencies where there was trouble over the selection of an Alliance candidate, a Liberal association with an established power base on the local council refused

point-blank to make way for the nationally endorsed Social Democrat.

One way out would be for the parties to agree on temporary joint membership of a revamped Alliance. Thus, instead of Liberals and Social Democrats going their separate ways, electing their own executives and selecting their own candidates, one local executive formed from the two parties would control all activities.

If the Alliance does move towards this kind of system it would clearly have to be done at joint meetings of Liberals and Social Democrats all over the country. This would almost certainly mean a constitutional change for the SDP in its selection procedure. At present this is done through a postal ballot of what Liberals see as a paper membership rather than at meetings where candidates have to make speeches, answer questions, and only those bothering to attend are able to vote.

In the general election, inarticulate and politically inept SDP candidates were sometimes chosen because large numbers of postal votes were cast by people not attending the selection meeting and judging candidates on paper rather than on performance.

Merger or not, if the Alliance is to become the real alternative to Thatcherism it must avoid unseemly squabbles between grassroots activists and build on the bonhomie which exists higher up. That way it will sooner or later find its hands on the levers of power and be able to introduce the ultimate solution to the problem: proportional representation.

The author stood as a Liberal parliamentary candidate in 1979.

Steel and Owen: can the bonhomie at the top be made to spread?

The author is a Liberal parliamentary candidate in 1979.

Peter Nichols on the background to the Italian general election



Scandals that could sway the vote

Two men, one dead, the other in prison, who have figured prominently in the Italian election campaign: banker Roberto Calvi (left), found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge, and Licio Gelli, who manipulated the P2 masonic lodge for political ends. Right, a newspaper advertisement showing how the Iron Lady factor is being manipulated by Giovanni Spadolini, the former Republican prime minister

Rome

Voters in the general election tomorrow and Monday will be hard put to decide whether they are supposed to be giving a moral judgment on how their country has been governed, or a political one on its future.

Since the campaign began, skeletons have been jumping out of cupboards with alarming frequency. Socialists in the Ligurian region have been hit by arrests on corruption charges. This led to renewed interest in allegations that leading socialists in Genoa had ties with the scandal of the P2 masonic lodge which broke two years ago and involved, among others, Roberto Calvi, the banker found dead a year ago hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in London.

The masonic scandal, despite obvious efforts to bury it, refuses to go away. If anything, its implications are getting worse. Essentially, the "Propaganda Two" was an old masonic lodge with a perfectly honourable past which had been reconstituted by Signor Licio Gelli, now in prison in Switzerland, as a political instrument which included among its members the heads of the secret service and leading political and public figures.

When the list of more than 900 people said to belong to it was made known, the government fell. Senator Giovanni Spadolini, of the Republican Party, and the first prime

minister since the war not drawn from the ranks of the Christian Democrats, formed a government in June 1981 which was pledged to deal with "the moral emergency", namely the situation revealed by the P2 inquiry.

He finally fell last December, without having been able to complete his moral change. His successor, Senator Amintore Fanfani, the present Prime Minister and a Christian Democrat, made no similar pledge in his programme to round out the corruptors and the corrupt. No sooner, however, had the electoral campaign begun than Signora Tina Anselmi, the Christian Democrat who presided over the parliamentary commission of inquiry into the P2 affair, voiced her suspicions that there were connexions between the lodge and the number of Aldo Moro, the former Christian Democrat prime minister and architect of his agreement with the communists.

The Red Brigades, the terrorist movement responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Moro, was drawn up naming a leading Christian Democrat as guarantor of the agreement.

This document was said to be Cutolo's life insurance and would have been published had either he or his sister met a violent end. Another intriguing aspect of these confessions is said to be that Camorra pressure was responsible for persuading Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who wounded the Pope, to make his famous confession which sought to implicate the Bulgarian secret service in the attempt on the Pope's life. Agca and Cutolo were both in Ascoli Piceno for several months.

Leading Christian Democrats have rejected the accusations against their party in the Cutolo affair as communist electoral manoeuvring. It certainly looks odd that so much should suddenly emerge only days before the vote.

Nevertheless, the electorate has not in the past shown much sensibility towards accusations of corruption against particular parties.

The P2 affair, for instance, cannot be said to have had any effect at all on earlier voting when the whole business was much fresher in the voter's mind. As it is noticeable that people talk in much more shocked tones about a television personality arrested in the Camorra round-up than any of the politicians who have been named.

Even at that level, large companies could justify videoconferencing on the basis of the fares, expenses and travel time saved by highly paid executives who would otherwise be flying across the world to meetings. Of course, frisky young business executives may be horrified by the prospect of losing opportunities to get away and have fun, but they should be outnumbered by their weary colleagues welcoming the chance to spend more time at home.

Whether a face-to-face meeting is in any sense "better" than a videoconference is a different question. BT staff with experience of Confravision say that most newcomers feel nervous when they first sit in front of the camera but soon warm up and relax. Some even enjoy playing up to the camera and watching themselves on the monitor. On the whole, video sessions are conducted more crisply and efficiently than personal meetings because participants do not feel obliged to draw out proceedings so as to justify all the time they have spent travelling to the conference.

But a market research firm in the United States, International Resource Development, reported recently that many Americans react against videoconferencing because they are so used to slick television performers that they are put off seeing inarticulate and badly dressed colleagues on the screen. The company also claimed that videoconferences fail because participants subconsciously miss smelling one another's emotional reactions as they speak. The suggested solution is a telecentric machine to give the impression that the other people are in the same room.

European telecommunications authorities have thrashed out a common standard to make international videoconferencing possible.

They are now pressing the Americans to adopt it as a world standard.

The United States already has two incompatible systems, one devel-

oped by Compression Labs of California and the other originating with NEC in Japan, whose users cannot communicate with one another nor with the Europeans.

GEC-McMichael, the only European manufacturer to enter the US market, has just made its first sale to an American company for transatlantic videoconferencing and it hopes for millions of dollars worth of orders in the United States. "We in the United Kingdom have a world lead in this technology," says Tim Duffy, manager of McMichael's videoconferencing division.

Videoconferencing is still far from cheap, even after the recent technological advances. BT refuses to

discuss the charges it is likely to levy after the trial network becomes a commercial service in 1984. However, McMichael is selling its compression equipment in the United States for \$100,000 (about £65,000).

The equipment which GEC-

McMichael is producing for British Telecom gives pictures of talking

Heads that are indistinguishable from high-quality video. They begin to blur only when the screen becomes full of rapid movement - which would not happen during a normal business conference unless an executive went berserk in front of the camera.

This year's BT trial will link 40 offices in 17 companies. The standard mobile terminal has one camera and two screens built into a veneered cabinet, looking like a double television set. A second camera above a stand films documents or objects. The system can be wheeled into any meeting room with normal lighting levels.

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The author stood as a Liberal parliamentary candidate in 1979.

Malcolm Deas

Will Bolivar now do us a good turn?



Bolivar... placed much confidence in the British

the incessant pay demands and frequent lapses of discipline of the British volunteers. He also recognized that some of them, officers and men, were among the best soldiers he had, experienced, steady and loyal. In campaigns with few veterans, many desertions and small but decisive encounters, they could make a lot of difference.

O'Leary, Cooke, O'Connell, Ferguson, Wright, Sandes are all deservedly remembered in South America. The lists in local archives contain many humbler names often half-Englished: Tomas, Jones, Enrique, Bates, Juan, Smith... who, one wonders, was Corporal Jacobo Benito?

"Still," concluded the puritanical Alexander, "the name of English soldiers was a host, as their cool and steady conduct in action, even when on the brink of the grave from fatigue and disease, was the theme and admiration of the royalists and patriots. Had it not been for this, they would not have been tolerated."

In the sometimes heavy atmosphere of commemoration, it is also a relief to read that when George Canning took upon himself the creation of the new republic with "I called the New World into existence to redress the balance of the old", a moment of profound silence followed, broken only by the sound of faint mocking laughter from a corner of the chamber. Only did a wild burst of cheering and applause speed through the house. One realist there, at least.

Bolivar himself indulged his British troops. The Scottish soldier Alexander, after noting his aversion to duellists, goes on to say, "He allowed the English to fight duels, but any (south) American who fought was shot for the offence... He was very fond of the English, often talked about England, and placed much confidence in the British.

"Out of policy and regard for Britain, he pardoned many villains, giving them passports and rations until they embarked, and even money to carry them off... Bolivar only dismissed them with these words, 'Make out his passport to leave the country' then turning to the culprit, 'Do not thank me for this, sir; your country saves you'."

Bolivar needed British money, British arms, British recognition, and was prepared to put up with the mania for duelling, the insistence of maintaining fine class distinctions,

One realist there, at least.

Wellington certainly admired

Bolivar's achievement, though he later gave it as his opinion that ambition undid him at the end. One might think that rather an easy criticism to make from the splendours of Apsley House. Britain was the first to recognize the changed state of affairs in the Americas, an initiative that Bolivar fervently desired, which gave us a lasting reputation in South America as a benevolent and progressive power, and to which frequent reference will be made in the speeches of the coming month.

The difference between this year and past years is not only the added significance of Bolivar's bi-centenary.

It is that post-Falklands audience will be listening more closely to hear anything between the lines.

The author is lecturer in Latin American politics at St Antony's College, Oxford.

Richard Dowden

Peace: a platform for the West

I was almost disappointed that the young Irish priest stood up to the Polish secret police. He resisted the four young men in leather jackets and jeans who were trying to direct him into the back of a car. He shouted at their keeper, an older, rather nervous man in a brown suit: "How do I know you're police? You might be a bunch of thugs. Where's your identification?"

The brown-suited gentlemen took out a badge on a chain from his trouser pocket but would not let the priest examine it. As the tussle continued around the car I saw another conference delegate passing by and shouted to him that we had been arrested and to telephone the British consul.

Had we gone quietly we might have seen more of the workings of the secret police. As it was, the rumpus alerted them to our identity. About 15 minutes later we were released.

We were delegates to the Peace Conference for Christians held in Warsaw in September 1979 to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Poland in 1939.

The conference was similar to that now being held in Prague. It brought together Christians from all over eastern and western Europe for three days at the expense of the Polish government. The western delegates tended to be natural critics of their own systems; those from the east had more mixed attitudes. Many of them, even the organizers, were often critical of their systems, but only in private.

JUN 25 1983



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MINISTER FOR RATES

In its long and continuing wrestling match with local authorities on the ground of public expenditure the post-79 Conservative administration has twice changed the rules of the contest. It is about to do so again.

In 1980 it prepared the way for a block grant method of distributing rate support grant. At the same time it appointed annual targets of expenditure for each council and took powers to withhold grants from councils that overspent their targets. That ended a system under which higher local expenditure almost automatically attracted higher central grant and the only form of penalty in the hands of the government hit the thrifty along with the spendthrift.

In 1982 legislation was brought in to cancel councils' power to levy a supplementary rate, to enlarge the minister's discretionary power to withhold grant, and to institute a centralized and supposedly more searching form of local audit.

Each time the Government was met by the complaint, not least from its own supporters, that it was violating the remaining autonomy of local authorities and overthrowing the "constitutional" balance between central and local powers. Mr Heseltine was the author of these apparently contra-conservative measures, and Mr Tom King their chief parliamentary exponent.

The defence was first that it was not the Government but blacksheep Labour councils who were the aggressors, since they were abusing the convention that councils respond to the government-of-the-day's general wishes concerning the volume of local expenditure; and second that the measures anyway did not invade the citadel of local financial autonomy, a council's power to set its own rates. Mr King in *Hansard* January 18 1982:

I stand by the statement that I made on an earlier occasion... It remains the case that while the Government still has a responsibility for the distribution of grant, the levels of rates are the responsibility of the local authorities. They have to determine them and remain answerable to their electorate.

So often and so emphatically did

ENTER THE CONINTERN

Conservatives by definition are slow to change. But never let it be said that, after mature examination, they are unwilling to borrow a good idea from someone else. Yesterday, a mere hundred and nineteen years after the founding of the first International Working Men's Association, and in the same city, the International Democratic Union came into being. Following in the steps of the Liberals (Liberal International, 1947) and of the Christian Democrats (Nouvelles Equipes Internationales, 1947; Intercontinental Committee of Christian Democracy, 1958), the conservatives of the world have at last gathered their forces for the great counter-attack.

The time for an apotheosis of conservatism, with the camera angle widening from the national through the European to the worldwide dimension, could not have been better chosen. "At its birth," declared the hostess (or should one say the midwife?), "we can already claim the support of 150 million people - double the size of the Socialist International. It girdles the earth." One recalls the closing scene of Eisenstein's *Ivan The Terrible*: in the foreground the majestic ruler, newly consecrated by popular acclaim; in the background, stretching into the

THE TRAINING TAKES PRIORITY

The Manpower Services Commission's acronyms, from YOP to WEEP, have caused some mirth, and the commission's enterprising officials have not always been able to still the doubts that all this bustle served only to keep young people temporarily off the streets. But in the absence of political inspiration in coping with mass unemployment the MSC has performed well its sisyphean task of pushing numbers off the top of the unemployment aggregates and along the way giving individuals hope and a better chance of finding work.

Its success has come from the team effort of its commissioners, representing both sides of industry and education, and its network of officials and their contacts in firms and public authorities throughout the land. The issues before the MSC have rarely come to a vote. The more divided are the commissioners the less effective they are likely to be and the less able to present to the Secretary of State for Employment and his Cabinet colleagues unpalatable projections of vacancies and school-

Mr King draw that line, that it is no surprise to find, now that the Government is about to obliterate the distinction, that Mr King has slipped off to transport and his place at the head of the environment department is taken by Mr Patrick Jenkin who arrives uncompromised by any previous experience of the

ship of financial accountability and responsibility between councils and their local electors has been allowed to atrophy. The system is already rotten at its extremities where commercial and industrial ratepayers, who have no vote as such, pay by far the larger part of the total; where, as everywhere, there are many electors who receive no rate demand; where a substantial proportion of domestic ratepayers are screened from rate rises by rebates or benefits; where council tenants and council employees, who have a superior interest in public productivity, are thick on the ground.

Ratepayers, commercial and domestic, who find themselves in that position may become the victims of a tug of war between central and local politicians. They deserve protection.

The protection ought to be provided by a systematic reform of the financial and electoral basis of local government. That is an undertaking fit for a Conservative government with a safe perch and long views, which ought to feel acutely uncomfortable at being party to the steady conversion of local government into localized central administration, ought to fear the consequences of that development when central direction is in others' hands, and ought to feel an impulse to revive local government as an organism for the diffusion of power, the accommodation of diversity and the exercise of responsibility.

Selective power to set a limit to rates may now be the only way to protect ratepayers in special cases of gross abuse; but it should not be divorced from a policy of general reform that would eventually render use of the power unnecessary. The Government's intention to tax on general reserve power to set limits everywhere betrays despair of the possibility of reviving the local accountability of local government. It is too soon to despair, and a Conservative administration should be the last to give way to it. If Ministers persist in seeking that ominous and unnecessary extension of the array of central controls over local decisions, Parliament should refuse them.

But in too many places it does not work like that. The relation-

distance, the mass of the people from whose support he draws his strength.

The worldwide ascendancy of conservatism in democratic politics has indeed become a rather striking phenomenon. Dr Kohl, Mr Bush and Mrs Thatcher all represent parties which were in opposition five years ago but are now riding high. Also represented as the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, no newcomer to power but, under Mr Nakasone's leadership, more resolutely and unambiguously conservative than ever before. Even Scandinavia, traditional bastion of social democracy, has sent two conservative prime ministers to the London meeting. Sweden, it is true, has reverted to its old gods, and Southern Europe seems oddly out of phase, with France, Spain, Portugal, Greece all languishing under socialist rule.

And where is Italy? Preparing to vote tomorrow, but without real worries. Conservative forces, in the shape of Christian Democracy, are as firmly ensconced in power as ever and look well placed to see off the impudent Socialist challenger of Signor Craxi. Yet, together with their homologues in the Low Countries, Italian Christian

Democrats are still anachronistically bashful about their conservatism, and have stayed away from London.

That poses a problem of dual loyalty for the German Christian Democrats. In London they may be conservatives but in Strasbourg they are still Christian Democrats *vor alles*. There, indeed, M. Jacques Chirac's Gaullists still prefer the company of Fianna Fail to that of British Conservatives, who have to make do with Mr Kent Kirk, the intrepid trawlerman, as their solitary benchmark.

Which makes one wonder what all this internationalism really amounts to. Do the 150 million voters notionally represented in London this weekend really have anything in common that they do not share also with Christian Democrats, Liberals and even democratic Socialists? Never mind. The reaffirmation that one can be conservative without being authoritarian, patriotic without being chauvinist, and that belief in the free market is not incompatible with accepting a duty, as Mrs Thatcher put it, to "use our joint resources to help bring the benefits of economic prosperity to the developing countries", is welcome and should be heard loud and clear.

From a less Eurocentric viewpoint, Chinese would also seem to be desirable.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL F. DAVIS,

12 Beach Road,

Hampshire.

June 16.

Military degree

From Mr Michael F. Davis

Sir, While expanding on the Duke of Edinburgh's recommendations (report, June 3) that military science should be taken far more seriously, your correspondents surprisingly fail to mention what is clearly a very desirable factor in such studies a knowledge of Russian.

Since Soviet political and military opinion is not monolithic, trends in that opinion need to be identified and analyzed as soon as they emerge.

From a less Eurocentric viewpoint, Chinese would also seem to be desirable.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL F. DAVIS,

12 Beach Road,

Hampshire.

June 16.

Clock symphony

From Mrs Elizabeth Walker

Sir, Mr Range-Gibson (June 17) suggests that sufferers from Parkinson's disease and diabetes need to wear audible watches during contests for medical reasons.

Whilst I am most sympathetic to the needs of Parkinson sufferers and diabetics - indeed I work with the former and married one of the latter - I must point out that they are both diseases which mainly affect adults, the vast majority of whom are more than capable of remembering to take regular medication and certainly would not dream of seeing an audible watch to sound in mid-concert.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH WALKER,

23 Queensmere Road,

Wimbledon, SW19.

Comprehensive point

From Mr Brian Tregar

Sir, Surely the Headmaster of Langley Park School for Boys (June 22) is not so much scoring a comprehensive point as making a logical error? The ability of Eton and Stowe to exclude pupils for unacceptable behaviour, perhaps says more about the standards of those schools who lack the simple right to say no.

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN TREGAR,

13 Havelock Road,

Brighton, Sussex.

June 22.

Call for building societies reform

From Lord Young of Dartington

Sir, What is striking about the latest rise in the building societies' mortgage rate, apart from being so unwelcome, is that once again the societies are acting together instead of in competition with each other. The building societies' cartel is, in other words, still very much in existence.

May we hope that the Government, professing as it does an interest in competition, will at last take action to abolish this cartel and, in the interest of consumers, at the same time carry out the many other reforms that are required in building societies? Sir Geoffrey Howe proposed the need for reform while he was still Chancellor.

It is a pity there was nothing about legislation on this in the Queen's speech. But at least Mr Lawson could now begin preparing for legislation in the next session. Can we hope that he will do so?

Yours etc,

MICHAEL YOUNG,

House of Lords.

June 23.

From Mrs Diana Golding

Sir, If the building societies are so short of funds why do they not offer a discount (such as council tenants receive) to encourage the elderly to complete the purchase of their houses quickly? Many of us with a few thousands owing would be delighted to repay the outstanding debt, even if it meant borrowing temporarily from other sources.

Yours faithfully,

DIANA GOLDING,

Emley Gate,

Emley,

Chichester,

West Sussex.

June 23.

From Mr Tom Daly

Sir, In his article yesterday (June 20) Mr Gerald Kaufman stated that the greatest challenge facing the Labour Party was the recovery of credibility and, indeed, the credibility gap is very wide. Reference is made to Harold Wilson's celebrated speech at the 1963 Conference when the "white heat" of the technological revolution was directed at the conference delegates, signalling "a new kind of Labour Party, up-to-date, even ahead of the times and eager to demonstrate its managerial talents".

The white heat seemed to be of short duration and it was twenty years later - at the Labour Party conference last autumn - that a resolution was approved to set up a Labour Party science and technology group and that party policy should include support for innovative technology. Mr Douglas Hodge then replied for the NEC, stating that a comprehensive report on the future of science and technology should be placed before next year's conference.

This slow response to the international technological and marketing problems which rapidly developed in the post-war years has been noted by the electorate, which may not be especially enthusiastic about the present government, but believes it may have at least one foot on the ground.

Yours faithfully,

TOM DALBY,

4 Westbourne Park,

Scarborough,

North Yorkshire.

June 21.

From Mr Michael F. Davis

Sir, While expanding on the Duke of Edinburgh's recommendations (report, June 3) that military science should be taken far more seriously, your correspondents surprisingly fail to mention what is clearly a very desirable factor in such studies a knowledge of Russian.

Since Soviet political and military opinion is not monolithic, trends in that opinion need to be identified and analyzed as soon as they emerge.

From a less Eurocentric viewpoint, Chinese would also seem to be desirable.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL F. DAVIS,

12 Beach Road,

Hampshire.

June 16.

Work for unemployed

From Mrs Marie Forsyth

Sir, I am not surprised that the Manpower Services Commission takes four months to "complete the necessary paperwork" (June 22). They are probably in league with the DSS.

Last October I started full-time employment and asked the DSS if I were entitled to make reduced National Insurance contributions. My local office "checked with Newcastle" and six months later Newcastle finally agreed that I was

entitled to the reduction and informed me that I would be sent a white card to claim my refund. In May (two months later) the white card arrived. I duly claimed the refund and was told yesterday that it was unlikely to arrive before the end of July.

Why? What are they doing in Newcastle? Perhaps Bernard Levin could investigate.

Yours sincerely,

MARIE FORSYTH,

28 Stockerton Road,

Uppington,

Leicestershire.

June 22.

From Mrs Felicia Kentridge

Sir, Michael Hornsby's report on the Rikhotko judgment on Friday, June 17, has clearly defined the issues that judgment raises. It may be, however, that one of the essential qualities of the Legal Resources Centre to which he refers is not as clear.

The centre, which now has an office in Durban as well as Johannesburg, has a professional staff, barristers and solicitors, of 15.

Five of these lawyers are black.

It is an essential principle of the centre that posts are filled with the best people available. We do not rest on the figures quoted above, but I draw your attention to them to qualify the description of the centre as "a group of white lawyers".

Yours faithfully,

FELICIA KENTRIDGE,

Legal Resources Centre,

P.O. Box 9493,

Johannesburg,

South Africa.

June 20.

From Mr John M. Whittaker

Sir, I appreciate Mr Kercher's concern (June 18) regarding noise pollution in Lakeland, but regret his "nothing justifies" conclusion.

Walking the fells in May, I endured the same low-flying noise nuisance, but was pleased to do so.

Mr Kercher may find it enlightening to have a chat with those brave young R.A.F. men who risk their lives playing "tag" in an area whose daunting topography provides a necessary challenge in their training.

They might be too modest to say

that they were in the "game" of defending this country from possible aggression and, in particular, preserving for posterity that beautiful landscape he and I so much admire.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN M. WHITTAKER,

Investment and Finance
City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

 FT Index: 726.1 up 1.2
 FT GIfts: 82.30 down 0.06
 Bargains: 23, 125
 Datastream USM Leaders
 Index: 98.9 up 0.23
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
 index 8845.38 up 31.90
 Hongkong: Hang Seng index
 951.22 up 14.38
 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1237.58 down 4.21

CURRENCIES

 LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5465 up 35 pts
 Index 84.7 up 0.4
 DM 3.9050 up 0.0050
 Fr 11.7550 up 0.0350
 Yen 88.50 up 0.20
 Dollar
 Index 124.4 unchanged
 DM 2.5247 up 2 pts
 Gold
 \$423.50 up \$3
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Gold \$423.50
 Sterling \$1.5435

INTEREST RATES

 Domestic rates:
 Base rates 9½
 3 month Interbank 9½-9¾
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 9½-9¾
 3 month DM 5½-5¾
 3 month Fr 14½-14¾
 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme IV
 Average reference rate for
 interest period May 4 to June
 7, 1983 inclusive: 10.344 per
 cent.

PRICE CHANGES

 Cons Gold 599+20p
 GUS "A" 540+2p
 GKN 161+3p
 Barclays 510+4p
 BCI 468+8p
 Glaxo 915p+8p
 Trafalgar 188p+4p
 Hawker 336p+1p
 Marks 199p+1p

NOTEBOOK

 Sales of Scotch have not met the distillers' expectations so far this year. The market has been hit by changes in drinking habits and the recession. Stocks are still high. But the long term outlook is good.
 Shares are now fairly stable and the market is being held back by uncertainties about gits. The trend in company profits is upwards. The broad nature of the corporate improvement could mean that the FT30 and All Share indices do not perform in the same way.
 Page 13

Advisers named

 Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday named his three special advisers: Mr Adam Ridley, 41, who was special adviser to Sir Geoffrey Howe as Chancellor; Mr Rodney Lord, 37, economics leaderwriter for the *Daily Telegraph*; and Dr Lynda Rouse, 35, Mr Lawson's special adviser when he was Secretary of State for Energy.

Airline collapse led to hearings in US and Britain
How the Laker legal web grew

From Our Correspondent, Washington

"I'm flying high today. I've raised £60m sterling. My troubles are over."

The confident words came from Sir Freddie Laker as he boarded a plane in London for talks with his primary leaders in the United States in February 1, 1982.

Later that afternoon, officials of Samuel Montagu, acting for the Midland Bank, Laker's principle banker, said they were at "an advanced stage" of negotiations on a loan package to save the struggling Laker Airways. They estimated the loan plan would be completed in a week.

Three days later Laker Airways collapsed triggering a complex and protracted legal battle now being fought in British and American courts.

In a civil complaint filed in the US Federal Court in Washington, Sir Freddie said that from Christmas Eve 1981, until midday on February 3, 1982, he believed that McDonnell Douglas Corporation and General Electric of the US would be forthcoming with promised £10m cash to save his faltering airline.

Suddenly on February 4, without warning or time to seek other financing, Sir Freddie claimed that he had been informed the loan package had fallen apart and he had been forced into receivership.

Subsequently, Laker Airways



Laker: accusing airlines of conspiracy

court and the presiding judge, Mr Justice Parker, for three things: a declaration of non-liability in the Laker case; a permanent injunction preventing Laker from proceeding with his case in the American court and from interfering in the British court proceedings by filing a counter injunction.

The court ruled that Laker should be enjoined both from proceeding with his case in the American court and from interfering in the British court proceedings by filing a counter injunction.

The legal duelling continues on both sides of the Atlantic as attorneys engage in thrills and spills over diverse issues, including the confidentiality of requested information; the international application of US anti-trust laws; and the effect of bilateral government-to-government airline agreements on the Laker case.

response from Judge Harold Green of the US Federal Court in Washington.

In an opinion in which he ordered Laker to proceed with the civil case in his court, Judge Green said: "It is difficult to visualize on what basis a British court could legitimately take jurisdiction - let alone displace the jurisdiction of a US tribunal - when the complaint alleges violations of American law by American corporations and by a foreign corporation which provide air service between the US and Europe."

Noting that "only two of the defendants are British", Judge Green said: "British courts could not and would not enforce American anti-trust laws because British law fails entirely to recognize liability for the acts alleged."

Further, he was surprised by the "denigration of American law by British courts", citing the comments of Mr Justice Parker that an exhibit filed in the Laker case "favours of either fiction or journalism rather than legal exposition and was apparently prepared by Laker's American attorneys".

The legal duelling continues on both sides of the Atlantic as attorneys engage in thrills and spills over diverse issues, including the confidentiality of requested information; the international application of US anti-trust laws; and the effect of bilateral government-to-government airline agreements on the Laker case.

US coalition of moderates increases taxes and cuts defence spending
Congress passes budget and heads for confrontation with Reagan

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Congress has finally passed a compromise budget of higher taxes and sharply reduced defence spending for 1984 which is certain to trigger a political confrontation with President Reagan.

The bipartisan budget, which took House and Senate negotiators two intense weeks to work out, was passed in the Democratic-controlled House by a vote of 239 to 186 and in the Republican-controlled Senate on a vote of 51 to 43.

The vote was widely regarded as an indication that there is an emerging coalition of moderates from both parties who disagree sharply with Mr Reagan's economic priorities.

In the debate preceding the voting, many moderates said that they could not justify increased defence spending at the expense of the poor and elderly and could not live with

the huge federal deficits projected in the Administration's programme.

President Reagan has said repeatedly in recent days that he would oppose strongly budget which would both raise taxes during the present recovery and cut funds for his planned military build-up. Although he cannot veto the budget resolution as such, he does have the power to veto specific enacting legislation.

The deficit projected in the \$849.6bn budget passed by Congress was estimated to be in the range of \$170bn to \$175bn, compared with deficits of up to \$200bn projected by the Administration.

The budget resolution directs Congressional committees to draft legislation raising \$12bn in new taxes during fiscal 1984 and \$75bn over three years. The budget will cut in half Mr

marked for a variety of recession relief measures now being considered by Congress.

Although Mr Reagan can veto enacting legislation for such measures as the tax increase, his hands are tied on defence spending. Since defence appropriation committees in both houses are now committed to increases of no more than 5 per cent in fiscal 1984, the president must either accept the reduced level or veto the measure and get less.

Both the House and the Senate openly defied Mr Reagan by deciding that the way to reduce spiralling federal deficits was to reduce defence spending rather than to make further cuts in domestic programmes.

Further, both houses were apparently in agreement with European officials that, despite Administration arguments to the contrary, the huge deficits could retard the promising

economic recovery now underway.

In the debate, Mr Slade Gorton, a Republican senator from Washington, said he was convinced "that defeat of this resolution will certainly result in far larger deficits."

Mr James Jones, chairman of the House budget committee, said in urging his colleagues to pass what he admitted was an imperfect compromise measure: "If we don't pass the budget, we'll be telling the American people and our allies that we've got fiscal anarchy to the discipline of the budget process."

Critics of Mr Reagan's policies have argued that new revenues must be raised in order to retain the confidence of corporation and financial markets that the deficits will be reduced, thus easing pressure on interest rates.

City Comment
Oil out of troubled waters

Those small investors who bought British shares when they went public last autumn have proved more shrewd in their judgment than the institutions who refused to touch it with a barge pole.

Although the shares fell and fell hard in the weeks and months immediately after the flotation, they have since more than recovered.

And yesterday, the day of the company's first annual meeting since its flotation, the shares touched 246p against a sale price last November of 215p.

The change of fortune at British is part and parcel of changing attitudes to the oil market generally. Mr Phillip Shelburne, its chairman, put his finger on this when he said that he now expects a period of price stability to be followed - although he did not say when - by a gradual and steady upward movement in the cost of the commodity.

The Russians seem to agree with him. Earlier this week they boosted the price of their crude oil and bought considerable cheer to holders of sterling. It rose strongly because the perceived view is that the higher the price of oil worldwide the more money flows into Britain's coffers.

Oil is obviously still a good business to be in - but that is perhaps why the Government should take to heart Mr Shelburne's remarks to the effect that although the last Budget did something to encourage oil development, it did not address the problem of the next generation of fields which will be needed to maintain self sufficiency into the next century.

Mr Lionel Anthony, another director, who joined in March, is likely to follow soon. Mr Secker Walker joined Cayzer, Gartmore from NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, 18 months ago. Mr Anthony came

Flood of offers for Maunders

By Jeremy Warner

An offer for sale of 2.5

million shares in John Maunders Construction, a private

housebuilder in the North-West, has claimed its first casualty with the resignation of Mr David Secker Walker on Thursday.

He was the managing director of Cayzer, Gartmore, the financial services subsidiary of B&C, Gartmore's parent company.

Meanwhile, an offer for

sale by Hambrus Bank of 3

million shares at a minimum

tender price of 100p in

Tumstall which makes emergency

communications equipment

for the elderly and the

infirm, has also been

oversubscribed though the amount

of subscription has not yet

been specified.

The size of the John

Maunders

oversubscription

which is being handled by the

stock

firm

Henry

Cooke

Lumsden

has meant

that

applications for

4,300

shares or fewer, will go for a

ballot of just 100 shares.

Even those who applied for

27,500 or more will only get 2

per cent of what they asked

for.

John Maunders, which is

going

directly

to a full stock

market

listing made

pre-tax

profits of

£689,000 in the year

to June 30 last year.

Cayzer, Gartmore chief resigns

By Jonathan Clare

British and Commonwealth Shipping's deal to sell control of its Gartmore fund management business to Exco International has claimed its first casualty with the resignation of Mr David Secker Walker on Thursday.

He was the managing director of Cayzer, Gartmore, the financial services subsidiary of B&C, Gartmore's parent company.

The value of those warrants has been the subject of a dispute between the directors of the

trust and B&C. B&C is

expected to offer to buy the

warrants in at about £6.50 each

(rather than the £7 previously

expected) at a total cost of over

£20m.

Lloyd's sued for \$200m

An American diamond cutting company is suing Lloyd's of London for \$200m (£129.3m) in a claim resulting from a jewelry raid in August 1981.

Moise Tubero Co said it was prepared to settle for \$30m if Lloyd's responded by June 17. "Thereafter settlement may be difficult due to the entry of a final (default) judgment." The offer to settle expires on July 8.

Lloyd's says the amounts claimed are "grossly exaggerated." A default judgment was

obtained against Lloyd's in a

federal court in Florida. However, it is unclear whether this judgment will stand.

Mr Moise Tubero, the company president, says in a letter to Lloyd's that his legal advisers are seeking a final judgment.

The lead "syndicate" at

Lloyd's is number 640 which

could be liable for \$20m if Mr

Tubero successfully sued it for

the full amount or \$3m if the

claim is settled on his terms.

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With an individual company there is of course a risk that the recovery may never take place. This is why a unit trust is such a good vehicle for investing in a wide spread of recovery situations: a unit trust can shrug off the occasional casualty. The potential rewards from the successes can be very high.

Timing. In the opinion of the managers this is a good time to invest. Recovery funds tend to do ex-

ceptionally well when the economy as a whole is pulling out from recession.

Minet shows promise

ACCOUNT DATES: Dusseldorf, June 20; Dusseldorf, July 1; Contango Day, July 4; Settlement Day, Aug 7.

Bumper profits and a big improvement in the share price is on the cards for Minet Holdings, the Lloyd's insurance broker, and a great favourite among the takeover pundits.

Yesterday the shares rose 1p to 125p as brokers W Greenwell upgraded their expectations for the year in the wake of the healthy first quarter figures announced this week showing pretax profits up from £2.7m to £3.5m. Greenwell said that if Minet can maintain this growth, it should easily exceed their forecast of £19.2m for the year. Last year Minet made pre-tax profits of £17.8m.

Much of this year's improvement has stemmed from currency gains and an upturn in the group's Middle East and Far East business. But the North American market, which last year accounted for 32 per cent of broker income, remains dull. Greenwell maintain that the weakness in the price, owing to the revelations at Lloyd's, has been overdone and the shares are still good value up to 135p-145p.

But with the St Paul Companies Inc holding just under 26 per cent of the shares, the threat

of a full bid remains in the wings.

The rest of the equity market remained firm, despite the latest trade figures showing a deficit of £552m. But prices closed below their best levels with the FT index ending 1.2 up at 1,261, after an earlier gain of 2.9.

Brokers *Statham Duff Stoop* are arranging a private placing of 6.4m shares in *Computer Holdings*, manufacturers of *Lynx microcomputers*, to raise £1m. The shares are being offered at 17p a share and values the entire company at £4.4m. The company has forecast pretax profits of £750,000 for the year to March 31. It is hoped the shares may be quoted under rule 163(2).

Further improvements in the pound against other leading currencies on the foreign

exchange led to gains of 50p in gilt. The pound closed 0.3 cents up at 1.5460.

In blue chips, *Beecham* rose 5p to 376p ex-rights after the recent £200m cash raising exercise, which seems to have been well received by the market.

ICI closed unchanged at 514p. It seems Britain's biggest industrial group has asked the US Securities and Exchange Commission for permission to raise the ceiling of its debt to \$300m.

Oils enjoyed a new lease of life amid reports that Egypt had raised the price of its crude oil by 50 cents a barrel. BP rose 4p to 440p, while Shell lost an early lead to closed unchanged at 163p.

Among the onshore exploration groups, *Carless Capel & Lestor* fluctuated before closing unchanged at 206p after announcing an encouraging drilling report. Early tests on its

years. This will be based on McCaffrey's post-tax profits in 1983/84. Last year's billings totalled \$140m and pretax profits were \$3.59m.

Meanwhile, brokers Cazenove and W. Greenwell placed 750,000 New Series B Free in. Vots to raise £26m. The shares were placed at £4.05 (£34p) a share and represents about 2 per cent of the issued share capital. The shares closed 50p up at £35. It is the biggest placing of foreign stock ever made in London.

Shares of BL car dealer *Hedys* remained unchanged at 95p ahead of interim figures next week which may make poor reading. Last year they made losses of £2.4m pretax. This week the group denied rumours of a board split after several resignations. Mr Jim Gregory, chairman of Queen's Park Rangers, owns 8 per cent with the Bank of Scotland owning a further 25 per cent.

Elsewhere among car dealers, Mr Cecil Redfern's Gedney Davis, the Ford main dealer and residential homes group, held steady at 105p after reporting better-than-expected profits in the week.

RECENT ISSUES		Code	Price	Div	Yld	Int.	Gross	Div	Yld	Int.	Gross
Atom Leisure 10p Ord (604)		604	7.2								
Castel (GB) 25p Ord (804)		804	11.5								
Chemical Methods Ass (114)		114	1.1								
Cochrane (GB) 25p Ord (604)		604	11.3								
Frantech Grp 25p Ord (404)		404	1.1								
Godwin Warren 25p Ord (114)		114	1.1								
Grange (GB) 25p Ord (114)		114	1.1								
Julian's Hide 25p Ord (9)		9	1.1								
Kings Group 25p Ord (604)		604	1.1								
LMC 25p Ord (604)		604	1.1								
McLaren 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Micro Focus 10p Ord (704)		704	33.4	3.2							
Monetary 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Newsweek 5p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Peninsula 25p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Siemens Kien 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Siemens 25p Ord (1204)		1204	1.1								
Sunbeam Electronics 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Telecom 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Unisys 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Westpac 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								
Yale 10p Ord (704)		704	1.1								

Interest rates in parentheses. * Unlisted Securities. * by value.

1982-83	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	Int.	Gross
BRITISH FUNDS								

SHIFTS	Exch	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1982	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1983	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1984	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1985	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1986	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1987	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1988	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1989	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1990	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1991	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1992	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1993	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1994	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1995	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1996	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1997	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1998	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
1999	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2000	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2001	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2002	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2003	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2004	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2005	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2006	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2007	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2008	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2009	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2010	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2011	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
2012	91%	Exch	10%	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983		

Funds

When managers seem to sit on investment cash

When you make an investment in a managed fund, say a single premium bond or unit trust, you expect the money to be invested along the lines of the fund's stated objectives.

But should you be expected to wait months until the managers of the fund decide it is time to invest the cash? One reader has complained about a £15,000 holding in a Hambro Life bond, the US Property Fund.

The bond was bought on behalf of a relative when it was launched last October. The prospectus said that the new fund intended to buy US real estate. Mr Nigel Hawkes says: "Not a penny of the money has been invested in property yet."

About £2.5m has been raised by the fund since October and it is still all on sterling deposit. So while stock markets have been booming on both sides of the Atlantic, the return since October has been a paltry 6.5 per cent.

"I think it is scandalous," he says. "How can a fund take money like this and then just sit on it for nine months without moving a muscle? I thought the fund was a good idea because I wanted something in property but British property looked in the doldrums. I also liked the look of the dollar and wanted a currency hedge."

Margaret Drummond

Money back – at a price

Crown Life says the comparison drawn last week between the term assurance element in its Plan for Life, and London Life's convertible term policy is unfair, because people who insure through Crown Life will get some money back at the end of the term, whereas those who insure through London Life will not.

Crown Life's policy costs a lot more in the meantime, though. Take a 24-year-old wanting £40,000 worth of cover. With Crown Life, paying

Adrienne Gleeson

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Building societies

Offend the bank manager for extra interest

Any private investor who keeps money in the bank on seven-day deposit after the end of this month must be a masochist.

The differential between the new building society investment rates announced this week and bank deposit rates is now so large that you cannot afford to

ignore it – however much you might worry about offending the bank manager.

From July 1, building

the before-tax equivalent rate for building society extra-interest accounts is just under 12 per cent – nearly double the miserable 6 per cent you will get from your bank.

Even the highly successful money funds cannot compete unless you happen to be a non-

taxpayer, and for these investors NSB Investment Account now looks a better bet, in spite of the ludicrous constraints imposed by the way interest is

calculated.

The two tables tell the story. Building society extra-interest accounts, now on offer from virtually all societies, are a best buy for all but the non-taxpayer.

For the higher-rate taxpayer,

National Savings certificates with their tax-free return are still more attractive for anyone paying tax at 45 per cent or more, but your money is tied up for five years.

Similarly, for basic rate

taxpayers income bonds offer 9

per cent but you will not be able to get at your money until 1988.

For those who do not need to

rely on their building society

once a week, shopping around among the smaller societies can produce even better returns.

Guardian Building Society is paying 9.25 per cent basic rate tax paid (equivalent to 13.2 per cent gross) for sums of £1,000 or more, deposited for six months.

The disadvantage with smaller societies is that transactions may have to be conducted by post, but this is not necessarily a handicap if you keep £500 on deposit as ready money in a local building society.

Why do people keep money on deposit with the bank when they can get much better rates elsewhere? Apathy is the usual reason, coupled with a fear that if you move your savings, the bank manager may be sticky over a loan or overdraft next time you need to borrow.

This is false economy. The battle between the banks for new customers is so fierce that if you are subsequently turned down for a loan, you would have no difficulty in walking

across the road to another bank and getting the required overdraft – particularly if you were prepared to deposit your building society pass book as security for the loan.

Another disadvantage of bank deposits is the complicated way tax is calculated.

Income from bank deposit is usually taxed on a "previous year" basis with confusing rules for the years when you open an account and close it. It produces particular difficulties for people who are gradually running down their deposit account.

Bank monthly income accounts

	Interest rate	Notices	Minimum investment
Midland	9	28 days	£2,000
NatWest	9 1/2	1 mth	£2,000
Yorkshire	9	for deps	£1,000
Lloyds	9 1/4	for deps	£1,000
	9 1/2	1 mth	£2,500

*Fixed for term – other rates variable

Return on fixed interest investments

	Non taxpayer	30%	40%	45%	50%	55%	60%
Bank 7-day dep	6	4.2	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.4
Build soc ord acc	7.25	7.25	6.21	5.59	5.17	4.55	4.14
Build soc int acc	8.25	8.25	7.07	6.48	5.89	5.3	4.71
NSB Invest acc	10.5	7.35	6.3	5.77	5.25	4.72	4.2
Money funds	9.4	6.58	5.64	5.17	4.7	4.23	3.76
Nat Savings Cert	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Income bonds	9.0	9.0	5.4	4.95	4.5	4.05	3.5

*These are both five-year investments – the others are all short-term.

*Net of basic rate tax

Building Society Bargains

	Interest rate	Notice	Min investment
Abbey Nat	7.75	7 days	–
Alliance	8.5	2 mths	£500
Anglia	8.25	1 mth	£500
Colchester	7.75	7 days	–
Chel & Glos	8.25	–	£1,000
Guardian	9.25	6 mths	£1,000
Hendon	7.75	3 mths	£500
Herne Bay	8.75	3 mths	£500
Holmesdale	9.00	5 mths	£1,000
Mornington	7.5	–	–
Nat Counties Portman	8.75	2 mths	£1,000
Portsmouth	9.00	5 mths	£1,000
Wessex	8.5	–	–



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- * No penalties for withdrawing money
- * No bank charges
- * Minimum deposit £5,000

For full details of the High Interest Bank Account with Robert Fleming, Bankers please phone Save & Prosper on 0708-66966 or complete and return the coupon.

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited accepts deposits as principal and Save & Prosper Group Limited collects deposits as their agents.

100% annual interest earned assuming monthly withdrawals of interest, and that the interest rate remains at the daily rate at 23rd June 1983. The equivalent annual rate is 9.30% if interest is not withdrawn monthly. The rate varies with market conditions.

HIGH INTEREST
BANK ACCOUNT

with ROBERT FLEMING BANKERS
The Save & Prosper Group, Administration Centre, Hexagon House, 28 Western Road, Romford RM1 3LB.
Please send me full details of High Interest Bank Account.

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Address _____ Postcode _____

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP

Fancy owning a racehorse? This week saw the launch of Lord Oaksey's Thoroughbred Investment Company, and Isle of Man group which will invest in stallion shares, mares and fillies as well as breeding top quality yearlings for sale.

The company will be managed by Thoroughbred Managers Ltd, with Lord Oaksey as chairman, while the sole investment adviser is the British Bloodstock Agency, the largest specialist bloodstock agency in the world.

The company will be run "more or less" along the lines of a unit trust, say the managers which means that shares can be bought and sold at the underlying net asset value. Valuations will be made by the British Bloodstock Agency on a quarterly basis. Because of the nature of the breeding cycle, no redemptions will be allowed for the first 18 months.

Minimum investment is £1,000 and can be made through a stockbroker or other professional adviser. After the first £1 million shares have been placed, there will be a public offer (still at £1 per share) with newspaper advertisements and cut-out coupons.

But this does not appeal. Juliette Harrison has been looking at other ways of owning a racehorse.

A racehorse in training costs an average of £8,000 and 95 per cent will fail to earn their keep while half will win nothing at all.

These sobering statistics - which come from Mr John Biggs, director general of the Racehorse Owners' Association - taken with the fact that there is little variation in the running costs of a potential Derby winner with residual stallion riches and an elderly gelding battling his heart out in an insignificant seller, prove that a flat not profit must be the owner's spur.

In 1971 the Jockey Club, appreciating that the joys of ownership would soon be a pipedream for all but a wealthy few, introduced racehorse syndication allowing up to 12 adults to enjoy the pleasure and at worst share the financial pain.

No one wants
12 telephone
calls demanding
progress reports

which won four and was placed in six of its 11 races in 1972. Rugby Special was sold the

following year for 4,000 guineas (£42,200).

Mr Robertson and his friends continued and have now raced 15 horses, 12 of which have won. The best, Twickenham, cost 1,800 guineas, provided five years of pleasure and, after scoring in five of his eight 1982 starts at the age of six, has been sold to America.

There are three ways to approach syndication. If, like Mr Robertson, you intend going it alone and have coerced 11 friends into joining you, the Federation for Bloodstock Agents will put you in touch with a reliable agent who will buy a horse at a recognised sale, usually in the 4,000-5,000 guinea range and, if necessary, recommend a trainer.

Most small or newly-established yards will welcome an approach and even some of the grander establishments are happy to oblige, provided the syndicate is properly run by one of the members. No yard wants its Sunday afternoons interrupted by 12 telephone calls demanding progress reports on a single, usually mediocre, horse.

Before the syndication is official three or four of the shareholders, who must be registered owners (one time fee: £13.80) are appointed lessees of the horse, taking responsibility for its management and financial arrangements. A Syndicate agreement must then be drawn up and signed by all members who are required to read the relevant rules of racing - numbers 46 and 181 - which the Jockey Club, in Portman Square, London - will supply.

If you intend to stray far from its guidelines, it is as well to have a solicitor to check that the final version conforms with the rules.

Provided all is in order, and a registration cheque for £63.25 per horse accompanies the application, you can open within 24 hours an account at Wetherby's, to handle the outgoing entry fees and incoming prize money, and are ready to run.

Annual audited accounts must be circulated to all members of the syndicate and the Jockey Club, which has the power to call in the books at a fortnight's notice on pain of expulsion and must be notified of any share transfer. No individual may be a member or have any family or business interest, in more than 12 syndicates at one time.

However, if the task of rounding up the people, doing the paper and liaison work and bearing the legal responsibility, seems too much like hard work, you can pay somebody to organize it for you - usually a trainer who specializes in syndicates, or a professional syndicate manager. The former will prove cheaper, the latter ought to keep you well informed.

Mr Ian Walker, a Newmarket trainer with a small string and full time secretary to handle his

syndicate, advertises in *The Sporting Life*. For him, syndication is a financial fact of life. "If I see a nice animal at the sales that my owners can't afford, I'll buy it and syndicate".

He charges £46 plus value added tax for each 12th share, excluding travelling and entry fees.

You can open an
account to
handle fees
and prize money

fees (slightly more than Mr Robertson's estimate of £37) and will sell the horse to the shareholders at £600 to £1,000 over its purchase price - a sum largely swallowed up by advertising costs.

His motive is not short-term profit but to attract potential clients who may eventually purchase horse outright. He is extremely careful therefore, to select a sound and promising animal for them.

These horses will usually be sought as a speculation at the September sales and they can take six months to be "filled". If there are any shares over at the start of the next year's flat season, the trainer may use

Members must
be prepared
to suffer
setbacks

them himself, rather than prevent the horse running.

Many are wary to the heavy gambling element attracted by the advertisements in the racing press. As one put it: "You get a lot of riff-raff - they don't care about the horse, it's all inside information and they're never off the phone".

The other way to avoid wrestling with the rules and regulations yourself is to go to a syndicate manager like Mr Henry Ponsonby, of Sherriff Bloodstock Services, Berkshire, who assembles his shareholders

through racecourse contacts and newspaper advertisements.

Since 1977, he has syndicated 53 horses which have won 56 races and £100,000 in prize money.

The successful Admiral's Princess, cost its owners £1,850 per 12th share, earned £22,000 on the racecourse and was sold to the US for £50,000. If you deduct two years' running costs, her shareholders would have come out with a little under £5,000 clear profit.

Mr Ponsonby's fee of £70 a month per 12th share covers all expenses, including transport and entries - the latter can come to well over £1,000 a year - and an inbuilt management fee of about £6.

As a businessman, Mr Ponsonby does not deny taking a profit which comes at the outset with a healthy mark-up on what he has paid for the horse. The sum is in the region of 30 per cent and pays the insurance, initial upkeep and advertising, the final profit margin depending on how quickly the syndicate is formed and ready to take over.

Mrs Andrew Simpson's rival firm at Marborough, Wiltshire, which has syndicated 17 horses of which nine have won 38 races since 1976, charges a monthly £60 per 12th share. He relies mainly on advertising to attract members and is currently using the exploits of five-year-old Wet Bob - four wins as many weeks this spring as that.

Syndicate managers supply an illustrated newsletter and regular bulletins, telephone with the running plans and deal with the accounting and legal side. They will also supply the trainer and the horse, in which they retain one share. It runs in their colours and name.

Syndicate members must be prepared to suffer setbacks. Wet Bob, for instance, went 17 months without a placing before his run of success while Aletis a current Simpson two-year-old, had to be gelded in February within six weeks of syndication at £775 a share. The owners were apparently "marvellous" about it.

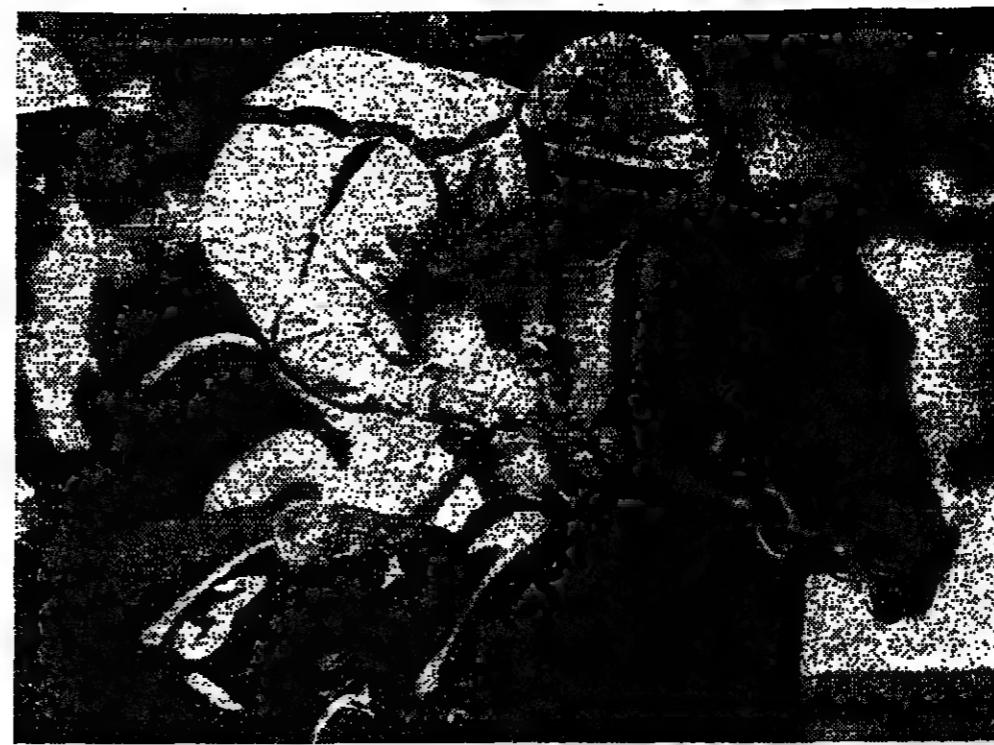
One conundrum could be the division of 12 eager owners into the two complimentary badges that offer admittance to the racecourse, the paddock and the winner's enclosure.

However, in practice, there are very few problems. The vast majority of Britain's 59 racecourses offer four passes per syndicate, aware of the fee-paying entourage that inevitably accompanies the proud owners.

Beside, with a catchment area covering the country, you are unlikely to get all 12 wishing to race the same day. Mr Ponsonby, by instance, the case of Admiral's Ruler which ran one week at Lingfield, Surrey, and a fortnight later at Epsom - heavy on the travelling costs, but enabling a completely different set of admirers to cheer him on.

One final point. Should you find the prospect of British racing too limiting and yearn for the glamour of Longchamp and Deauville - take care. While the French Jockey Club welcomes syndicates, the French Government, assuming they will make a profit, tax any winnings. In Britain, the authorities assume you will lose, and do not.

Juliette Harrison



FIRST PUBLIC OFFER... 2 BONUS... FIRST PUBLIC OFFER... 2 BONUS... FIRST PUBLIC OFFER... 2 BONUS...
OFFER CLOSES
JUNE 30

F & C

Assets under Group management
exceed £750 million.

F & C Unit Management Limited

F & C Unit Management Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of F & C Management Ltd which provides investment management and advice to Group funds of approximately £750 million. These funds include investment trust companies, pension funds, unit trusts, offshore funds and charities. At the centre of the Group lies the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust formed in 1868.

The Group is independent; its sole business is that of investment management and therefore it has no conflict of interests.

3 Unique Offers
TO
Unit Trust Investors...

from a Group with an enviable track record and over a century of investment experience which until now was only available to specialised and substantial private investors.

Bonus Offer

Until June 30th 1983 the managers are offering a special introductory discount of 2% on all three unit trusts.

Low Annual Management Charges

The annual charge is 1.1% (+ VAT) of the value of the Income and Capital Funds and 1.4% (+ VAT) of the value of the Far Eastern Unit Trust.

How to Invest

Simply complete the coupon below indicating how much you wish to invest in any one or all of the funds, and which ones. Units will be allocated to you at the offer price ruling (less the 2% discount) on the day of receipt.

Investors are reminded that the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up and investments should be regarded as medium to long term.

Investment Policy

The fund will be concentrated initially on companies falling into three major categories.

Low Risk Companies - About 30% of the portfolio will be invested in companies which should increase profits and dividends steadily and substantially over the years. While the initial yields on these stocks may be low their growth prospects must make them an important part of the portfolio.

Secure High Yield - About 50% of the portfolio will be invested in companies which, although solid and dependable, are not adequately recognised.

Special Situations - A maximum of 20% of the portfolio will be invested in recovery stocks, companies at a large discount to their asset value and other exceptional situations.

Investment Policy

The F & C Group has over a hundred years of international investment expertise, is skilled in identifying growth companies throughout the world.

Investments for the F & C Capital Fund will be made only after careful evaluation of the prospects for individual economies and stock markets and an assessment of the potential risks and rewards of particular sectors and companies.

As a guide, the offer price on June 22 was 76.1 p per unit.

F & C Unit Management Limited

1 Lawrence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0BA

I/We wish to take advantage of your 2% introductory discount offer and to invest in one or more of the following F & C Funds at the price ruling on the day following receipt of this application. (Minimum investment per fund is £50.)

F & C Income Fund £ _____

F & C Capital Fund £ _____

A cheque is enclosed made payable to F & C Unit Management Ltd. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Ms

Block Capitals Please

First Name/s

Address

Post code

Signature

Date

(In the case of joint application all applicants must sign and attach their names and addresses.)

*Please tick box if you would like details sent to you.

*□ Share Exchange Scheme

*□ Monthly Savings Plan

2 BONUS

What do
investments in
natural resources
offer?
Ours offer increased dividends.

We've had a good year at TR Natural Resources Investment Trust. The net asset value of each ordinary share is up by over 25%; pre-tax revenues by a significant 23%. Despite a large increase in tax payable the earnings increase of 22% was satisfactory.

Investing in companies involved in the natural resources sector will enable us to benefit from improving international economic conditions. Our carefully selected portfolio contains a large number of cyclical investments which traditionally derive enhanced profits from higher commodity prices and increased activity during a period of business upturn.

We anticipate that our next dividend will be not less than this year's, which was over 10% higher than the previous year's and reflected our continuing policy of giving shareholders a satisfactory and steady increase in income.

Our Annual Report will tell you more about us and our expectations. You are invited to send for your copy.

To Company Secretary: TR Natural Resources Investment Trust PLC, Mermaid House, 2 Puddle Dock, London, EC4V 8AT.
Please send me a copy of your 1982 Report and Accounts

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DI

TR Natural Resources Investment PLC
A MEMBER OF THE TOUCHE REMINANT MANAGEMENT GROUP
TOTAL FUNDS UNDER GROUP MANAGEMENT EXCEED £1,900 MILLION

General Information
The Trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and constituted by Trust Deed.
The Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., Midland Bank Buildings, P.O. Box 340, 56 Spring Gardens, Manchester M60 2RX.
The Registrar is Manchester Unit Trust Administration Company Limited, 57/63 Princess Street, Manchester M2 4EQ.
The initial charge included in the price of the units is 5%.
The annual charge is 1.1% (+ VAT) of the value of the Income and Capital Funds and 1.4% (+ VAT) for the Far Eastern Unit Trust.
Commission is paid to agents in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Unit Trust Association.
Prices and yields are calculated and published daily in the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph.
This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.
The managers are a member of the Unit Trust Association.
Income distributions of the Income and Capital Funds are on 30th April and 31st October, and 31st October for the Far Eastern Unit Trust.
Units are allocated at the offer price ruling when we receive your order. Applications are acknowledged and certificates normally sent within 30 days. Units may be sold back at any time at a price not less than the bid price calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Trade. Payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of your renounced certificate.
Minimum initial investment is £300 per fund.

Up to 1.50

FAMILY MONEY

Unit-links
Route to
tax-free
benefits

What do you do with the lump sum that comes your way when your life policies mature? If you do not need the money to settle the overdraft, chances are you will invest it and pay tax on the income generated.

Some of the more recent endowment policies offer the facility to take a series of partial surrenders tax free.

The drawback is that the return on leaving your money invested in a conventional endowment is dependent on bonus declarations.

Some insurers do, however, offer an interesting alternative. Friends Provident, National Provident, Norwich Union, Scottish Amicable, Scottish Widows and Standard Life allow the proceeds of maturing endowment policies to be transferred immediately in a unit-linked single premium bond, with the resulting bond becoming a qualifying policy. This means that the proceeds of the unit-linked bond can be taken totally tax free.

Conventional non-qualifying single premium bonds can offer an income facility free of basic rate tax, but the proceeds, if you cash in, are subject to higher rates of tax.

The advantage of this qualifying single premium unit-linked alternative is that it has all the benefits of a unit-linked contract (you can keep tabs on your investment, switch from one fund to another if the investment outlook changes, and generally "manage" your money) with all the tax advantages of a qualifying policy.

EXTRA HIGH INTEREST
BONUS SHARE ACCOUNT
7.50% = 10.71%* * Gross equivalent to basic rate
Minimum investment £100. Only one month's notice of withdrawal, or immediate withdrawal under penalty.

LONDON SHARE ACCOUNT **6.75% = 9.64%*** No notice of withdrawal required

SUPER BONUS SHARE ACCOUNT **8.00% = 11.42%*** Minimum investment £500. Six months' notice of withdrawal required or two months' notice under penalty

Plus "EASY ACCESS BOND" Account (one year term) Minimum investment £500

THE LONDON
PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY
Member of the Building Societies Association
FREEPOST, London SW1P 3BR Tel: 01-222 3581
Please send me full details of all your accounts. No postage stamp needed.
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Address _____
TNS

Insurance

Winners and losers in Lloyd's league table

For members of Lloyd's of London, the exclusive insurance club, next Thursday is the last day you can resign from your syndicates and apply to join other - hopefully more profitable - ones.

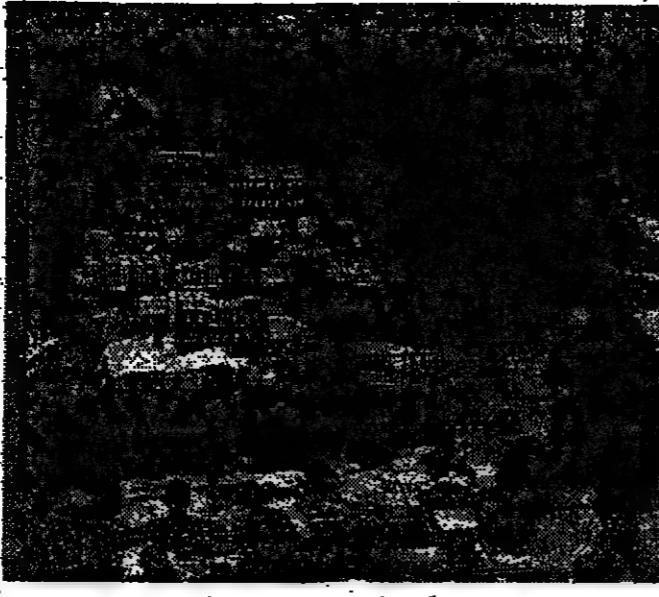
But how can you find out whether your syndicates have done well compared with others? By joining the Association of Members of Lloyd's.

The biggest advantage of membership of the association is access to the league table of syndicates' results, sent to members each year. The latest, surviving details of syndicates' profitability for the 1980 account, has just been published, and members are now hastily comparing their own "cheques" with those issued, or expected to be issued by other syndicates to see if it is worthwhile making a move.

The Association of Members of Lloyd's (AML) does not yet cover the whole field. It has to rely on syndicates' results being supplied voluntarily. At the moment, 110 syndicates out of 417 are covered by the survey, but this accounts for about 50 per cent of Lloyd's capacity, according to the association, because many Lloyd's syndicates are small and underwritten very little.

The average return for the 1980 account is about £900 for each £10,000 "line" written, compared with approximately £600 for the 1979 account. But hidden within these averages there is a wide range of results.

The top performer was syndicate 290 with an estimated



Lloyd's of London: deadline looms for switching syndicates

return of £4,543 for each £10,000 line while members of syndicate 223 are being asked to dig into their pockets to a tune of £3,029 (estimated) to cover syndicate's losses.

Members of syndicate 127, where Mr Ian Postgate was chief underwriter until his suspension last year, will pick up a cheque for about £1,725. His rival, Mr Stephen Merrett, is handing over £1,065 to his syndicate members.

Overall, 1980 was a good year for Lloyd's members with only 12 of the 110 syndicates monitored by the AML showing a loss. Within that, motor syndicates did best, with an average 12.3 per cent return compared with 7.1 per cent in 1979. Marine syndicates showed the greatest improvement, nearly doubling profitability from 5.6 per cent in 1979 to 11 per cent in 1980. Members of aviation syndicates have come off worst, losing on average 1.3 per cent in 1979 and 1.8 per cent in 1980. The figures are all AML estimates.

Further details from the Association of Members of Lloyd's, c/o Chasse, Wheatsheaf House, Carmelite Street, London EC4Y 0AX. Tel: 01-353 8391.

Top Ten
Results for 1980 - Return on each £10,000 Line

Syndicate Number	Underwriter	Underwriting profit/loss	Capital appreciation	Total return
290*	Walker	2,870	1,736	4,543
728	Evnnett	3,349	936	4,284
177	Smith	367	3,870	4,237
145	Compton	1,914	559	2,473
439*	Rendow	1,017	1,228	2,245
561	Patrick	239	1,997	2,236
406*	Pateam	—	—	2,200
820*	Griffiths	626	1,491	2,117
298*	Andrews	1,729	349	2,078
700*	Denby	—	—	2,078

Source: Association of Members of Lloyd's
*Estimates supplied by syndicates

UP TO
12.28%*
TAX FREE
A regular savings plan
bringing high returns
TAX FREE

If you are aged between 16 and 70 and married or with dependent children we can offer you a rare opportunity. We'll help you save a handsome lump sum over a 10 year period and give you up to £2,000 life assurance protection too. In addition, at the end of the plan we'll pay out all your savings plus the interest you've earned entirely free of tax. We call this opportunity the Leeds Friendly Assurance Plan.

How does the scheme work?

You pay a regular monthly or yearly premium for 10 years to Homeowners Friendly Society. They boost your premium with a special tax concession, deducting a small amount for life cover and management expenses. The rest is invested in a special account with the Leeds and starts earning interest immediately. Ten years later you get both your savings and your interest back without a penny owed to the tax-man. The higher the rate of tax you normally pay the more valuable this investment will prove.

How much can you save?

There are a number of different plans available, each with a set premium. Because the scheme is so profitable the maximum amount you can save is limited to £20.60 a month or £247.26 a year per investor (double for a married couple). Each of the plans gives a very good return although the exact return you get at the end of 10 years depends on your age, variations in interest rates and whether or not you pay an annual premium (this gives a higher return than a monthly premium). For details take a look at the table opposite which also lists examples of potential returns.

PLANS AVAILABLE			
Plan	Sum Assured £	Net Monthly Premium	Net Annual Premium
Half Plan	500	—	61.81
Ordinary Plan	1,000	10.30	123.63
Ordinary + Half Plan	1,500	15.45	185.44
Superplan	2,000	20.60	247.26
2 x Superplan*	4,000	41.20	494.52

*Available only to married couples.
Examples are for investors aged 16-39 and assume current rates of interest and tax relief are maintained. Excellent yields are also available for investors aged over 40. Further details available on request.
*Equivalent to 30% tax relief.

What about life cover?

If you should die during the 10 year period, your dependents will get at the very least your sum assured. If the sum of your premiums plus interest to date is higher than your sum assured they will get the higher figure.

Want to know more? Fill in the coupon and post it off to us. Or call in at your local Leeds branch for a friendly chat.

*This is the tax-free yield, based on annual premium, to a person aged 16-39.

To: John Handforth, The Leeds Permanent Building Society, FREEPOST, Permanent House, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 1SQ. Please send me details of the Leeds Friendly Assurance Plan without obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Age _____

Signature _____

I'm a pensioner _____

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Leeds
PERMANENT
BUILDING SOCIETY**

Say the Leeds and you're smiling

TJAS-C

What do you get if you cross a cheque-book with a savings account?

FREE BANKING AND INTEREST

'MONEYLINK' is a new concept in personal finance.

It results from an agreement between Standard Chartered, Britain's fifth largest bank with assets of more than £24,000 million, and Bristol & West, one of Britain's leading building societies with assets in excess of £1,300 million. Together, we can offer all the advantages of a complete current account service plus attractive interest on savings and a wide range of important extra benefits.

Most banks offer charge-free banking to personal customers keeping a substantial minimum credit balance in their current accounts - but they don't pay interest on those funds.

Building Societies, on the other hand do offer good interest - but usually without a full cheque-book service.

Now you can enjoy the best of both worlds - with 'MONEYLINK'.

Cheque-books, cheque guarantee cards for eligible customers, standing order and direct debit facilities, and regular statements are all part of the new service - free of charge unless you overdraw. Other convenient services will soon be added.

What's more, 'MONEYLINK' customers enjoy access to all services through more than 150 Bristol & West branches, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday and on Saturday mornings too, when most banks are closed.

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represents a better and much less costly way to handle personal finances and opens up a new world of financial flexibility.

Moneylink

A NEW CONCEPT IN PERSONAL FINANCE

'MONEYLINK' adds up to a very special deal for everyone, whether or not a Bristol & West customer at present. It could well be the best deal for you. Find out more now. Fill in and return this coupon today. You'll receive full details and an application form straight away.

REPLY TO: MONEYLINK,
FREEPOST (BS 3613), BRISTOL BS1 4YZ

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

T2

Bristol & West



Standard Chartered
Standard Chartered Bank PLC

Schroders
Schroder Tokyo Fund

Japan: invest now for the next stage of growth

A period of exceptional growth

Japan's record over the last 30 years has been the most impressive of all the industrial economies. Its growth and speed of reaction have been unrivaled by any of its major competitors. This success is reflected in a stockmarket that has more than trebled in sterling terms in the last decade.

Poised for the next stage

Japan is a world leader in several technological areas which are likely to be at the forefront of industrial activity over the next decade. The ability to turn this technological expertise into commercially original and successful products is expected to form the basis of a new phase of economic growth. By capitalising on its proven strengths of aggressive marketing, a flexible labour force and growth-conscious government, Japan can anticipate the fastest growth amongst all the major economies for the next decade.

The right timing

The Japanese economy appears well placed to benefit from an upturn in world economic activity over the next year. The sharp fall in oil prices has already considerably improved the current account surplus and will also result in a substantial improvement in corporate profits. These factors have not yet been discounted by the stockmarket. Furthermore, the yen remains considerably undervalued against other major currencies and should appreciate as Japan's relative economic strengths reassert themselves. We believe that the time is right to look for growth in some of the major companies in the Japanese market.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dealing in units may normally be bought or sold on any business day at prices quoted in several national newspapers. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt of your instructions and certificates will be despatched within six weeks. Repurchase proceeds will be forwarded within 10 days of receipt of renounced certificate by the Manager.

Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of units. A half yearly charge of 1/2% is deducted from income. The Trust Deed permits a maximum half yearly charge of 1/2%.

Commission for advisers: Out of the initial charges, remuneration (at rates which

Schroder Tokyo Fund

The aim is to achieve significant capital growth by investing in the most dynamic companies in Japan. The fund was launched in March 1981 with units at 50p. The offer price of the Income units is now 92.3p.

Specific opportunities

The Fund aims to exploit the potential of companies participating in the emerging new technologies. Examples include micro-electronics and their industrial application in such fields as automated robots and semi-conductor manufacturing machinery; consumer products like digital audio and personal computers; and pharmaceuticals/biotechnology where the Japanese have made a major commitment to research. In addition, investment will be made in some of the leading companies likely to benefit from a fall in oil prices and the expected improvement in economic activity.

Fixed Price Offer

Units may be purchased at a price of 92.3p per unit until 4th July 1983. The estimated current gross annual yield is 0.14%. This offer will be closed if the unit price varies by more than 2%. After the close of the offer units will be available at the daily price.

How to invest

To invest in the Schroder Tokyo Fund, please complete the coupon and return it with your cheque (minimum £500), indicating either Income or Accumulation units, or telephone our dealers in Portsmouth (0705) 827733. Remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as long term.

are available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers on applications bearing their stamp.

Income Distributions of net Income are made twice yearly on 31 October and 30 April.

Managers: Schroder Unit Trust Managers Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association), Regent House, 14 James St., London WC2B 5BS Regd. Office 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 8DS England No 1531222.

Trustee: Midland Bank Trust Company Limited

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Friendly policy for high taxpayers

It is not necessary to take up residence in Liechtenstein or the Bahamas to take profits from your investments without paying any tax at all. All you have to do is to find a tax-exempt friendly society, though there are severe limitations on the amount that you can invest (enough to produce life assurance cover of £2,000), and you can only do it if you have dependents (wife, husband, or children under the age of 18).

Savers Assurance, the tax-exempt offshoot of Time Assurance, has linked the life assurance element, not to the usual units or building society deposits, but to gifts (and possibly equities) profits on which will accrue to members of the society in the hope of old-fashioned reversionary bonuses.

Adrienne Gleeson

Even more interest.

From 1 July 1983

CHELTENHAM GOLD
8.25% 11.79%

Still no strings.

From 1 July we'll be putting up our interest rates by a full 1%. So Cheltenham Gold, which already pays extra interest annually on £1,000 or more, will be an even better deal. Even if you fall below £1,000, you'll still earn 7.25% net* 10.36% gross*.

And you'll still get 100% freedom to withdraw money immediately without any advance notice or loss of interest.

Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest

Invest £5,000 or more in a Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account and we'll pay you the new higher rate of interest monthly, direct to your bank. Better still, add the interest to your account each month and you'll earn the annual equivalent of **8.57% net* 12.24% gross***.

At your branch, Or by post-Free.

You'll find your local branch in Yellow Pages. If there's no branch handy, use the coupon to open either of the Cheltenham Gold Accounts by Post. You can pay in or withdraw as you like. We pay the first class postage.

Whatever way you choose, it's your first step to even more interest, but still with total freedom.

To C & G Building Society, PO Box 124 FREEPOST, Cheltenham Glos. GL5 7PW.
I enclose _____ to open a Gold By Post Account (Minimum £1,000, Maximum £30,000, Joint Account £60,000).
I enclose _____ to open a Gold Monthly Interest Account By Post (Minimum £5,000, Maximum £50,000, Joint Account £60,000). Please send more details.

(Block Capitals)

Postcode _____

RTT

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

Chief Office: Cheltenham House, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 3JR. Tel: 0242 36161
Member of the Building Societies Association. Over 450 Branches and Agents. Assets exceed £1432 million.
*The rate of interest paid on the Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account may vary from that paid on the Cheltenham Gold Account. Gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers.

There's always been a lot going for the versatile Cargo 16 tonners.

There's a wide range of engines from 130-204 bhp, all offering excellent fuel economy and outstanding reliability. And when it comes to driveline combinations, nobody gives you more choice to best suit your needs—for example at 16 tonnes we offer the choice of 7 gearboxes, 8 single speed and 3 two speed axle ratios.

Then there's a range of strong chassis which give excellent payloads at 16 tonnes GVM.

This all adds up to substantial savings on total cost of ownership, compared with our key competitors.

MORE FEATURES AS STANDARD

1983 Product features on 1615/17/20 models now include:

- 8 speed gearbox and heavy duty axle (on 1615/17 models)
- Power-assisted clutch (on 1617 models)
- Power-assisted steering
- Laminated windshield
- Steering column lock
- Thermoviscous fan
- Reversing lamp
- Multi-purpose socket/cigar lighter

Effective savings up to £1300

Effective savings referred to are a comparison of today's maximum retail price of the latest specification Cargo model compared with the maximum retail price of a similarly specified model in September 1982. The model compared includes delivery, normal GVM and normal DPF (e.g. 1615-20 tonnes C700, 1620 DPF engine).

Wines

Invest in vintage reserves with free cellar storage

The greatest obstacle to wine investment—not having a cellar—is overcome by the Unit Wine Investment Plan, run by Justerini and Brooks Ltd, a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary.

Its selection of various cellars of wine, first made in 1969 and published for 1983/84 this week, consists of a range of wines of recent vintages which need time to mature.

The 'units' containing the finer wines should also show a healthy capital appreciation after five or six years in reserve. Free storage is offered, dependent upon the anticipated maturity, until May 1988.

Another advantage of the

scheme is the facility to purchase by monthly banker's order. Unit One, for example, costs £15 per month.

The first unit will make for pleasant drinking in one or two years. It consists of three clarets, from the early maturing year of 1979 and one from the youthful 1981, a red Rhône, and a Kabinett 1981 Palatine.

The second unit, the most popular last year and costing £25 monthly, consists of five dozen bottles: a single estate Chateauneuf 1979, three lesser known clarets and a lovely first growth 1981 Château.

'Unit de luxe' at £40 monthly is more up-market: Oporto

bottled Sandeman 1977 vintage port, fine grand cru 1981 Chablis, and three château-bottled clarets which include Léoville-Poyferre 1981.

For real auction room potential Justerini's 'Imperial Unit', at £62 monthly or an outright payment of £706.80, is the most suitable: a dozen bottles of 1981 Château Latour, 1981 Palmer (one of the most sought after clarets) and domaine bottled 1978 Corton from Louis Latour.

Full details from Justerini and Brooks Ltd, 61 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LZ and at 39 George Street, Edinburgh.

Conal Gregory

Medical cover

Bonus for the healthy

A new company is entering the lucrative sector of private medical insurance, despite signs that the growth of recent years has reached its plateau. Crown Life, which already covers one million employees in sick pay schemes, is the first to offer no-claims bonuses could induce them to continue buying private medical insurance.

The company will offer an initial 20 per cent no-claims discount, increasing to 40 per cent after five years without a claim. A claim would mean reverting back to a two-year discount, worth 20 per cent off the premium.

Extra discounts will be offered to groups joining the new scheme, and a further 15 per cent discount will be available to individuals willing to pay the first £100 of their medical costs.

Pat Healy

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Now Cargo 16 tonners have even more going for them, with higher standard specifications on all models.

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JOHN is 150

The woman that Wimbledon could bank on goes bust

The great crash: Lloyd's liquidation

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

One of the most remarkably consistent success stories in tennis came to an end yesterday when Chris Lloyd was beaten by Kathy Jordan. Mrs Lloyd is unique in that, from 1971 to 1983, she contested 34 grand slam championships and, in every one, was never beaten before the semi-final round. We had begun to take her for granted.

The startling thing was that when the guillotine came down the executioner was a woman who had not taken a set from Mrs Lloyd in their previous five matches. For the record, the grand slam singles in which Mrs Lloyd always reached the semi-finals were eight French, 11 Wimbledon, 12 United States and three Australian championships. In the semi-final she won 15 times, was runner-up on nine other occasions and lost 10 times in the semi-final round.

The extraordinary sequence was not the only one that came to an end yesterday. As holder of the US, Australian and French championships, Mrs Lloyd needed the Wimbledon title in order to achieve a grand slam. Maureen Connolly and Margaret Court are the only women who have done that. Mrs Lloyd's disappointment was therefore two-edged.

But for two reasons her record remains without parallel. No other woman has advanced with such unwavering regularity to the last four of the singles title every year for 10 consecutive years. That last record in one on which Mrs Lloyd, as French champion, can still build.

Mrs Lloyd was seeded second. Andrea Temesvari, a Hungarian seeded fourteenth, was beaten 6-3, 7-6 on the centre court by her friend and practice partner, Carling Bassett, of Canada. Miss Temesvari, aged 17, was competing for the second time, and Miss Bassett, aged 15, for the first time. Their combined ages therefore fell short of the birthdays independently accumulated by three other competitors: Billie Jean King, 39; Virginia Wade, 37, and Rosemary Casals, 34.

These fair and attractive young women have tough streaks in them. Two-fisted on the backhand, they hammered away at each other - mostly from the baseline - with the uninhibited zest appropriate to the young. Miss Temesvari had the more formidable forehand but eventually Miss Bassett's sounder ball control and more penetrating backhand swung the match the Canadian's way. Miss

Harmon taking nervous, little steps, was restlessly fidgety between points. When the ball was in motion he tended to be all jerky improvisation because he could seldom be sure what the ball would do. By contrast, Curren was all ambling serenity, partly because that is his nature and partly because he knows the text of grass-court tennis by heart.

Britain's recent contributions to Wimbledon's success stories has occurred chiefly in doubles. Another heartening result cropped up yesterday when Andrew Jarrett and Christopher Moltisanti won a long, hotly contested match with the fourth seeds, Mark Edmondson and Sherwood Stewart.

Jordan profits

By Geoffrey Green

Too much of a good thing is wonderful said Mac West on a memorable occasion. And I doubt if poor Mrs Lloyd, champion three times in eight big finals, would wholly subscribe to this as she bowed surprisingly to her unseeded American competitor. Miss Kathy Jordan, 6-1, 7-6 on a crowded No 1 court yesterday. So, in an hour and 38 minutes, came the first major-peavey amongst the ladies. It always sad to witness the demise of a universal champion. Yet sympathy for the loser should not for a moment be allowed to cloud Miss Jordan's achievement in this blissful contest.

Basically, Miss Jordan matched the flat two-fisted backhand and forehand driving of her opponent with persistently low, cleverly angled replies. Mrs Lloyd, often had to counter her with measured lobs as lengthy ails unbound. But Miss Jordan, nimble and dale, had her own trading strength. A Wimbeldon doubles specialist for the past three years, her volleying proved a key love.

But we were wrong. Breaking back to 2-4, Miss Jordan recovered to 4-5 in the course of a cross-court dink by Mrs Lloyd brought such a roar as to waken a baby.

Breaking to love again for 5-5, soon it was 6-5, 6-6 and the inevitable tie-break. Here Miss Jordan's spring-heeled volleying took her to 7-2 and victory. The match had run away like sand through poor Mrs Lloyd's fingers. Miss Jordan has spread her game like opening an old chest full of spiced, yellowed love letters and summer dresses.

Yesterday's results

MEN'S SINGLES

Rider J. S. Connors (USA) 6-4 6-4 6-4

McCourt (USA) 6-3 6-2 6-3 6-2

Tucker (USA) 6-3 6-1 6-3 6-2

Lawn (USA) 6-2 6-1 6-3 6-2

Connors (USA) 6-4 6-3 6-1 6-2

Cottrell (USA) 6-3 6-1 6-3 6-2

Jordan (USA) 6-1 7-6 6-3 6-2

Jordan (USA) 6-3 6-2 6-3 6-2

McCourt (USA)



2,3
Travel: From Tamil temples to the Taj Mahal, India offers the Journey of a Lifetime; a weekend break at Grosvenor House

THE TIMES Saturday

25 JUNE - 1 JULY 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

With Henley starting next week, Adrian Barlow, in the fifth in our series on seasonal diversions, looks at messing about in punts

Solidarity with a pole

At Walton-on-Thames people with large houses and expensive frontages live on the Middlesex bank. The clubhouses of the Thames Valley Skiff Club is on the Surrey side and not exactly a plush affair. Apart from the crates of empties outside, it looks more like a scull hut than the venue for a major sporting event; but it is from here in August, that competitors will set out to contest the Amateur Punting Championship of the Thames, the sport's national competition.

A huge silver rose bowl will testify to the age of the competition. The bowl was first presented in 1886 and bears the names of such eminent punt champions as W. H. Grenfell, perhaps the greatest all-round sportsman of his era, and Ralph Bending, champion from 1946 to 1948, who revolutionized the sport by introducing the lightweight aluminium pole and is still revered as one of the finest punting exponents.

Like punting itself, the championship is enjoying a revival. At the end of the 1960s with interest waning and not enough punters of sufficient quality coming through, it was allowed to lapse and as the years went by seemed unlikely to be staged again. But the sport was kept going at local regattas; good young punters emerged, and last year the championship was back.

It was a nostalgic occasion. Bending was not to be lured out of retirement but his successor as champion, Nevill Mifroy, was umpire for the day, and Tony Christie, four times victorious in the past, was there to contest the title he had last won in 1963. The modern setting of Walton may have been a far cry from the days when the championship was held at Maidenhead and required a special grandstand, a flotilla of launches and a half-page photograph in *The泰晤士报*. But the boats were authentic and included racing punts built before 1914.

Just as a racing scull has little in common with a rowing-boat on the Serpentine, so a "best-and-best" racing punt bears scant resemblance to the elegant, leisurely craft seen at Oxford and Cambridge or Henley. It may be up to 35ft long and, as astonishingly, as narrow as 14in or less. The competitor punts from the centre of the boat, whose stem and stern are covered by canvas. He carries two spare poles clipped either side of the punt, and it is one of the great tests of watermanship to change poles at speed (if one becomes stuck in the mud) without losing balance or momentum. At Walton, though, the bottom was firm and no poles were lost.

A punting course is about three-quarters of a mile. Two punts race at a time, starting from a stake-boat, a punt moored across stream. Start and finish are at the same point: at the far end of the course stand two ryepecks, or posts round

which the competitors must turn. Here, the crucial manoeuvre of the race occurs for, instead of steering the punt right round the ryepeck, time is saved by "stopping-up". The pole is jammed obliquely on to the river bed, bringing the punt to a halt. The punter turns to face back up the course and shoves off, passing the other side of the ryepeck as he begins the return journey.

In a tight race the punts stay close to each other and the umpire has to ensure that skilful watermanship does not give way to vicious gamesmanship.

"Taking your opponent's pole" can be serious interference, and a well-aimed but unobtrusive shove can cause havoc. No

wonder that Rule 12 of the Thames Punting Club laws states uncompromisingly,

"Every punt shall abide by its accidents."

Doubles punting is a fine sight. Local crews from Weybridge, Thames Valley and the Ditton Skiff and Punting clubs raced in pairs with speed and precision: sadly there was no ladies' punting. There used to be a ladies' champion, Penny Chuter (now senior coach to the Amateur Rowing Association); but from the age of 15 she so dominated the event that the opposition lost heart. Now it seems there are no women punters left.

The standard of punting at Walton may not have been vintage, but the Amateur Punting Championship looks set to celebrate its centenary in 1986. If it does, this will largely be due to the enthusiasm of a man who has never faced a punt in anger in his life. He is R. T. Rivington, an antiquarian bookseller in Oxford, who, in 1982, became the first person for 10 years to publish a treatise on punting.

Punting and Punting, one of last summer's surprise best-sellers, outlined the origins and development of punting on the Thames, and at Oxford and Cambridge, and dealt in some detail with punt racing and punting techniques. This year saw the publication of Rivington's *Punting: Its History and Techniques*, which in both text and illustrations is the fullest survey of the subject ever published.

The fishing punt is the real precursor of the Thames punt. Traditionally painted green, it was wide and heavy and contained a wet-well: this was a box built across the width of the punt, the lid acting as a seat. Grills either side allowed water to flow through the well, so that catches could be kept fresh.

But the fishing punt was cumbersome to manoeuvre.

"Walking the punt" gave rise to endless jokes in *Punch*, and elsewhere about punters who, as Jerome K. Jerome put it, "had taken just one step more than there was any necessity for, and walked off the punt altogether."

A new and more static technique was required. In a

wonderfully evocative memoir



till, and pricking the boat along, the steering being effected by the direction given to the pole.

The popularity of punting was enormous and, indeed, the punt has come to stand as a symbol of the leisured elegance of the Victorian era. At the universities' undergraduates took lessons in punting from watermen such as Abel Beesley, professional punting champion for 13 years until Grenfell persuaded him to retire and give others a chance. Wherever the river conditions were right, punts replaced skiffs and canoes as the most popular boats for hire.

The Thames Punting Club was founded in 1885 and P. W. Squire, its secretary, extolled the virtues of the pursuit: "The punter faces the direction in which the craft is travelling and he or she can have a good view of the scenery... The punt is also better adapted for luncheon and tea, which... obviates the necessity of reaching an hotel at any special time."

In the iconography of punting, the girl is usually seen lounging on the cushions, gazing up at the man who stands with the pole above her. Yet a surprising number of Victorian paintings and illustrations show how women themselves took to punting.

Grenfell approved: "To the onlooker a lady punter, standing erect and propelling her craft with ease and dexterity, is a more graceful and graceful sight than that of an equally accomplished sister labouring at the oar."

of the Thames, *Our River* (1881), the Victorian painter G. D. Leslie, R.A., was the first to describe "another style of punting, much used at Oxford for light punts, which is done by standing in the stern, or on the

ford Repairs at Hemmingford Grey - a marvellous day out at perhaps the last true village in England.

● RIVER WYE: This used to be a very popular place for punting but only at Godalming is it still possible to hire a punt - a pleasant, but increasingly crowded, stretch of river.

● THAMES: Punting can be sheer delight or a nightmare: large craters, sudden cross winds and prolonged deep water make this no river for the beginner. Punts are available at Henley, Marlow, Sunbury and Hampton, and at Cottenham.

● THE OUSE: The Ouse is Cambridgeshire is an ideal punting river, meandering, uncrowded and passing through unspoilt country. The best place to punt is at Houghton Mill (a National Trust property and Youth Hostel). Punt races are held annually at the Hemming-

ford Meadows. At Folly Bridge you can hire camping punts for up-river trips as far as Lechlade in Gloucestershire. The Cherwell (north Oxford) gives access to some of the most beautiful stretches of river.

● STRATFORD-ON-AVON: Punts can be hired near the famous Coggeshall Bridge. Upstream the punting is good until you round a corner and come unexpectedly upon a caravan site.

● BATH: If you are lucky, you may also be able to hire a punt on the Avon. The city is not really seen at its best from river level, but towards Bathampton the scenery is full of charm. Occasionally it is possible to punt on canals and lakes, for instance on the Basingstoke Canal at ODHAM in Hampshire or at THORPENESS MERE near Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

● JOLLY PUNTING JARGON

Where to go upstream without a paddle

From Suffolk to Somerset it is still possible to find punts for hire at several places on the Ouse, the Thames and the Avon, as well as on lakes and canals. This summer a team of students from St Hilda's College set out to prove that it is still possible to punt direct (more or less) from Oxford to Cambridge - by water some 200 miles.

North of the Trent, however, it is a different story. At Knaresborough, on the river Nidd, it need be possible to punt under the fine viaduct and the high and low bridges. At Durham, until quite recently, you could hire a punt from Brown's boathouse and enjoy one of the most spectacular views in Britain: the cathedral framed by the graceful arches of Prebends Bridge. Now, alas, the only punts to be seen on the Wear belong to the college boat houses.

As for punting north of the border, after the Amateur Punting Championships last year, the secretary of the Honourable Society of Edinburgh Bosters challenged the "notorious Thames Punting Club" to a contest of upstream, white-water punting on a salmon-river of their choice.

But if the Edinburgh Bosters imagined that there is no one on English waters who may rise to the challenge, they may be in for a surprise. At Gloucester-on-Wye in Herefordshire the art of canoe punting (a skill much

HUFFS: The wooden cross-pieces at either end of the punt.

SWIMS: The sloping underscarfs of the punt.

TILL: The raised and bounded stern.

SALOON: The seating area where passengers can face each other.

COUNTERS: The canoes covering at either end of a racing punt.

SHOE: The pronged metal end of the punting pole.

RYEPECK: The turning post at the end of a punt racing course.

ROUNDING UP: Punting the punt round the ryepeck.

PRICKING: Punting from a standing position.

PRICKING THE PUNT: Steering towards the near bank by dropping the pole close to the side of the boat and then pushing outwards.

STOPPING-UP: In punt racing the technique of reversing the punt round the ryepeck.

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Dream destinations have never been more accessible. Today, in the first of an occasional series, our tour of India begins among the fabled temples of the south

At the temple entrance, boys sell marigold garlands and coconuts beneath huge blue and yellow carved dragons. Inside, flickering neon signs in a mysterious script identify sculptures of many-limbed dancing gods. Priests scurry about. Women chatter and jostle to buy jewelry, tourist mementoes and strip cartoon books recounting the triumphs of the Hindu gods. Staring, smiling children pop up everywhere. The air is perfumed with coconut milk, burning camphor oil and spices. Men loll on the stony floor in the cool half-light, reading, chatting or sleeping. The resident elephant is on his way to take his daily bath in the temple pool, dangling a red plastic bucket from his trunk.

This was my first visit to a temple in south India. And not at all what I had expected. Warned that the temples would be dull, empty and covered in ugly sculptures – and finding confirmation in lavish picture books – I had taken a deep breath at Madurai airport, vowing at least to give them a try. With a car and a driver and guide to give maximum comfort and help, I set out for the unpronounceable Tirupuram-kundram temple cut out of a hillside of rock outside Madurai.

My conversion was instantaneous and complete, which was just as well because temples are everywhere. In the cities there are big ones, teeming with life, where friends meet after work, and little ones on the street corners. Every village has several, all covered from ground

Douglas Dickins



Divine majesty: The magnificent Meenakshi temple complex in Madurai

to roof with jolly, gaily-painted stucco gods, children clambering over them, men asleep in their shade. Many of the magnificent temple complexes built by a succession of powerful rulers have been long abandoned. Their buildings are adorned with beautiful sculptures and they are a peaceful contrast to the noisy city places of worship.

On the way to visit them, through city streets and markets or along bumpy, dusty roads to villages and deserted sites, the whole of south Indian life is on show. It is quite different from the north. Here the people have very dark skin, almost black.

Women dress in luminously bright saris with orange, mauve, crimson and blue chequered patterns. They jangle with silver jewellery – necklaces, bangles on arms, wrists, and several rings round each ear, through each nostril and even on the toes. Men grow tidy black moustaches. They too wear lengths of coloured, chequered cotton, whereas in the north it is white. And they paint the long twisting horns of their bullocks with glossy red and green stripes, sometimes fixing bells or discs on them.

The women work hard. Up at dawn to fetch water from the well, many then go to work in the paddy-fields, taking metal lunch-boxes on their heads, or work as labourers building the roads. Men seem to get a better

deal, and have a good ally in their shade. Many are hard-working bullocks.

Tamil is the language of the south, written in a rounded script, and spoken very fast. Place names are long and unpronounceable.

Madurai, at the tip of south India, is pure Hindu and untouched by Mogul sophistication or by the pushy commercialism found more and more in the north. The city is dominated by the vast Meenakshi temple complex. Although mostly built during the seventeenth century, its foundation stretches back at least two millennia, when the city was the capital for the Pandya kings and a centre of learning and pilgrimage. Thousands of pilgrims still visit it daily and the enterprising locals provide them with everything they need – and much they do not.

The temple is protected by a rectangular wall. On each side is a *gopuram* – a tall granite pyramid gateway – every inch carved with fighting, leaping and dancing forms. They are now being painted in their original dazzling colours. Five-headed gods wrestle with 10-armed enemies; hordes of monkeys attack a giant demon; Durga, goddess of war, rides her lion; Ganesh, the elephant god of learning, sits in serene majesty.

In the Golden Lotus pool at the heart of the temple the

faithful cleanse themselves before prayer. Fakirs, religious ascetics, splash about, with long hair piled on top of their heads and faces painted with red and white stripes. Groups of women paddle up to their knees, holding up their best saris, worn especially for the occasion. They wear fragrant jasmine garlands in their hair and yellow turmeric paste on their faces.

In the surrounding corridors pilgrims meditate, read and die, sitting beneath a ceiling painted with jazzy lotus designs. They are silently watched by sculptures of a king and his first minister, who began an earlier temple on the site. Near by is a wall-painting of Meenakshi, the goddess to whom the temple is dedicated, marrying another god, Shiva. The marriage is re-enacted during a spectacular 10-day festival each spring.

Having washed, the faithful make their way past a carved bull, a stone symbolizing prosperity and protection and, finally, menacing, beady-eyed, stone-carved guards to the inner sanctum, here to perform *pūja* their religious rites.

Usually non-Hindus may not enter the holiest place but there is plenty more to see. There is a huge safe for large donations. One hundred pounds buys a golden chariot procession and keeps the donor on good terms with the gods. The day and time of the procession are chalked on a blackboard so that everybody can enjoy it – and know who the virtuous donor is.

Madurai city has other attractions, of course. Bold-painted griffins, dragons and lions look down into the courtyard of the seventeenth-century Thirumalai Naick palace, restored last century by Lord Napier and now used for concerts. And Madurai is one of the main centres for studying the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhi museum exhibits spinning wheels, the Mahatma's glasses and – a bit ghoulish – behind a screen in a darkened room is the homespun dhoti he was wearing when he was assassinated.

Leaving Madurai before dawn, we find the roads already crowded with overloaded bullock carts taking advantage of the cooler hours. As dawn breaks the women assemble at village wells or pump to fill brass pots, returning home with one on the head, the other on a hip. The driver pulls in at a wayside temple twinkling with fairy lights to offer a prayer for a safe journey.

We drive past groundnut plantations, palmrya palms whose leaves are used for



Heavenly harmony: Saraswati, goddess of music and learning

roofing, through villages with the communal transistor blaring cracked music. On past farms, over hay strewn in the road so that cars will winnow it and a tiny temple built between huge statues of a horse and elephant, all brightly painted, until the tall gateways of Thanjavur come in sight.

Thanjavur has a welcome serenity after the hectic buzz of Madurai. It was the capital of the Chola kings from the ninth century to the thirteenth. The emperor Raja Raja built the main temple, whose moat the local women now use for their washing. The detailed carvings of the simple temple buildings lack the baroque exuberance of those at Madurai.

The temples of Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli near by were built on the wealth of the Chola rice crop, grown in the delta of the Cauvery river, which is still called "the rice-bowl of India". The huge Srivilliputhur temple complex at Tiruchirapalli is full of scampering local children and Indian families on pilgrimage. Every ruling dynasty seems to have had a hand in its construction, and there has been uncharacteristic restoration. But the tenth-century part has not been touched, and here are probably the most sublime and sensitive carvings of women to be found anywhere – a shy maiden awaiting her lover, another putting on a jewel, another standing with a parrot at her feet.

Going west from Madurai, towards the Western Ghats, the land is increasingly fertile as in rises. Women, working in rows, plant out paddy-fields, glistening with water fed from irrigation streams.

At Thekkady the hills rise sharply from the plain. High among them is the Periyar wildlife sanctuary. Here the climate is tropical, the morning air fresh. Enormous creepers climb up lofty trees, draping leaves as big as tea-trays. Outside men work in humid semi-darkness, cleaning the cotton, then dipping it from poles hung across troughs of dye heated by wooden fires. The cotton is then rinsed and wrung out in a mangi before compet-

In the middle of the sanctuary is Periyar Lake, whose surrounding russet slopes reflected in the still water look like the Scottish Highlands. A boat trip is the best way to spot wildlife. Although the guides warn gloomily that nothing will be seen, they usually find something. Just to see an elephant family lazily grazing on the lake shore, trunks swaying makes the visit worthwhile. The cool tranquillity is so restorative after the heat that it is tempting to spend a night at the tiny hotel on an island in the lake.

On the east coast, just south of Madras, lie Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram, the port and capital of the Pallava kings, the great Tamil dynasty whose power reached its height between the fifth and eighth centuries. Mahabalipuram's temples, stone chariots and romantic shore temples are decorated with bold reliefs. The most remarkable one, completely covering a huge rock face, portrays a profusion of animals, gods and beasts which feature in various fables, including that which tells of the origin of the Ganges river.

Kanchipuram is a thriving provincial town. After the Pallavas were begun by Emperor Akbar as a military fort. By the time his grandson, Shah Jahan, was making his additions, it was used more as a palace. It was Shah Jahan who added the exquisite Moti Masjid, known as the Pearl Mosque, and the audience halls, and who designed the Octagonal Tower for Mumtaz Mahal, his beloved wife. From high on this tower, a visitor catches a first glimpse across the Yamuna to the Taj, his memorial to Mumtaz. And

it will compare unfavourably to reproductions on scratched biscuit tin tops, will be converted. The tradition is to see it under the light of a full moon – adored by the Indians, who go on special trips from Delhi – but it is probably better to choose another time, when it will be quieter. Better also to spend a night or two in Agra, where there are other things besides this shimmering monument to be enjoyed in and around the city.

Agra was the Mogul capital in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The magnificent fort on the banks of the Yamuna River was begun by Emperor Akbar as a military fort. By the time his grandson, Shah Jahan, was making his additions, it was used more as a palace. It was Shah Jahan who added the exquisite Moti Masjid, known as the Pearl Mosque, and the audience halls, and who designed the Octagonal Tower for Mumtaz Mahal, his beloved wife. From high on this tower, a visitor catches a first glimpse across the Yamuna to the Taj, his memorial to Mumtaz. And

continued on page 3, col 1

Remember Paris

– Fiona Richmond

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TRAVEL

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

... and finds remnants of an imperial history in India's teeming cities

Douglas Davies

BOMBAY
AND DELHIBusiness is
brisk in
the bazaar

Delhi and Bombay suffer like all cities. Few people do them justice and it is easy to leave India with a bad first impression of either. But even in a single day there are good things to be found in both.

Delhi sprawls. Each new conqueror built a new city, abandoning the one before, so on Delhi plain the remains of several cities straddle several miles. The modern twin cities of Old Delhi and New Delhi are too big to walk around. The easiest way to get a general idea is to take a half-day TDC or government tourist bus trip. They are very cheap, have excellent guides, whisk round Mogul Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad), Lutyens' 1920s New Delhi and out past Sher Shah's sixteenth-century Purana fort and Humayun's tombs, across the plain to the twelfth-century Qutab Minar tower.

You can return with a car and a driver - not nearly as extravagant as it sounds - to spend the afternoon visiting Siri, the ruined second city of Delhi, the fine Lodi mosque nearby and the walled city of Tughlaqabad, pausing to explore the numerous mosques and tombs on almost every hillock. It is fun to wander in the Chandni Chowk bazaar, a maze of streets which is the nerve centre of Old Delhi. Close by is the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India, which from its courtyard, gives a good view of Delhi's Red Fort.

In the early evening the Red Fort is quiet, deserted by tourists. The luxuriant Diwan-i-Khas, which originally housed the Peacock Throne, the domed royal baths and the marble Pearl Mosque all glow at sunset.

As darkness falls, these romantic buildings are the perfect stage set for short, son et lumiere shows (simply called "sound and light" by the Indians), recreating the fort's history, recently modified to give less credit to the British.

New Delhi is the administrative capital of India. One of the few government buildings open to the public is Nehru's house, set in an immaculate garden with green lawns and rose walks. It is now a museum, telling the story of Nehru and the Freedom Movement.

Bombay is the economic centre of India. It is jam-packed with people making everything from textiles and cars to films

for ornithologists and photographers, particularly between November and February when migratory birds visit.

It is best to arrive at dawn, wearing a warm jumper, or at dusk to see the animals and non-water birds, and to stay overnight. In the pale morning light and absolute stillness, the birds begin to wake. As the sun rises, clearing the mist, Chinese coots dance across the water, making a ridiculous amount of noise, while eagles glide silently above them. By 9.30am the sun is well up and it is time for restorative hot coffee and breakfast at the best house before going on to Diwali.

Although it is difficult to believe now, Diwali was a flourishing commercial centre in the eighteenth century. All that remains is a splendid group of palaces built around a formal mogul style garden, lying between two reservoirs, all within massive walls.

In one palace there is a horseshoe table in marble, where dinner guests would lounge on bolsters. A carved and painted balcony juts over the water where local women sing and chatter as they beat their bright saris on the steps while washing them.

The drawing-room stretches the length of the ground floor, incongruously furnished with European sofas, carved tables and Chinese porcelain, still lovingly cared for by aged servants left behind by the maharajas.

Dig has one of the few palaces entirely open to the public and provides a fascinating insight for Europeans into the lifestyles of the fast-disappearing maharajas.

deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri; the bird sanctuary at Bharatpur; and the summer palace of the Maharajas of Bharatpur at Dholpur.

According to the legend,

Akbar made a pilgrimage to the site of Fatehpur Sikri to visit a holy man, and as a result was blessed with a son. In gratitude, he transferred his capital there, building the splendid red sandstone city only to abandon it a few years later, apparently because of the bad water supply. It is, therefore, a perfectly preserved Mogul city, a very rich emperor's forgotten toy. It reflects his immense wealth and power, his study and tolerance of other religions, and his personal attempt to synthesise them in architecture and a new hybrid religion, *Deen-i-Islam*.

The mosque is outside the walls; everything else is inside. The Jodh Bai palace, used by the Muslim Akbar's Hindu wife, has Hindu columns and Muslim cupolas. Stone rings and halters for horses and camels are still in place in the stables. There are hostels for visiting merchants, tiny palaces for courtiers, the Ankh Michaukh, a chequered courtyard paved for the Emperor's relaxation, a giant game of *pacchis* - something like draughts - which he is supposed to have played using slave girls as pieces.

The origins of the bird sanctuary at Bharatpur are also a tale of extraordinary extravagance. An immense lake was dug into the natural marsh to improve the maharaja's famous annual duck-shoot, enjoyed by, among others, Lord Curzon in 1902. It is now the Keoladeo National Park and a paradise

for ornithologists and photographers, particularly between November and February when migratory birds visit.

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The roots painless way of moving between cities is by air. Air India has a good timetable of flights in the early morning before it gets hot. They are inexpensive: Delhi to Bombay costs about £30 and Delhi to Hyderabad about £80. Flights can be booked in advance, with confirmed seats, from England. A good travel agent will do this and work on the best routes. One good London company is New Era Travel, 42 Glasshouse Street, London W1 (01 737 2245). Within the cities it is tricky to get on a bus. They are usually full, often with a few people clinging on to the outside. The cheapest individual transport is bicycle rickshaw, but agree a price before setting off, if the idea of human muscle pulling the European sightseer is too reminiscent of the Raj, take autorickshaws - two-seater taxis driven by motor scooter. They should have a meter that works, but if not, agree on a fixed price. Taxis about town are expensive. If your trip ends in Goa, then take the Bombay Steamer up to Bombay for the night home.

Where to stay: At the top end of the market there are the exotic former palaces of Rajasthani at Jodhpur, Jaipur and Udaipur. The comely, colonial tradition persists at the new Windsor Manor in Bangalore. Other tour operators offering packages to India include Serenissima, Twickers World,

Premier Holidays, Kuoni, Sovereign and Thomas Cook.

When to go: Northern India and Kashmir are pleasantly warm in autumn and spring, but get quite cold in winter, with snow in Kashmir. The official season for Rajasthan and all places south is October to April, but the air is quite humid at the beginning. It is pleasant from December to February and then begins to hot up.

Health: The recommended vaccinations are against cholera, typhoid, polio, tetanus and for hepatitis. It is also recommended to take one paraldehyde pill daily and one maloprim weekly against malaria. For further advice, contact the British Airways Immunization Centre, 75 Regent Street, London W1 (01 439 9584). Medicines and lotions are expensive in India, when they are available at all. So take supplies.

What to pack: To visit temples, one must remove one's shoes. If you do not have a pair of socks, your visit is spent scuffing from one patch of shade to the next. Cotton clothes are best, and a warm jersey for the evenings. Short shorts worn by men or women are frowned on, but besides the sun bikinis are fine. Take all the film you need but do not weigh down the suitcase with novels. There are plenty of shops selling new and second-hand books. Take credit cards. They can

be used in larger hotels and in the excellent state handicrafts shops. Furnishing and dress materials are cheaper than in Britain, so take measurements with you and the shop will ship it all home.

Recommended reading: There are many novels set in India - Paul Scott, R. K. Narayan, Kipling, Ruth Prawer Jhabvala and others. For hard information there is the Pelican two volume *A History of India* by R. Thapar and P. Spear. A more gentle introduction comes from Bambu Gascoigne's *The Great Moghuls* or John Keay's *India*. For guide books there is the superb Victorian travel guide, *A Handbook for Travellers in India* etc, first published by John Murray in 1859 and now in its 22nd edition, and *India, a Travel Survival Kit* published by Lonely Planet Publications in 1981.

The Government of India Tourist Office is at 29 Cork Street, London, W1 (01 337 3677). Most cities in India also have a government tourist office, which can arrange a car and driver for more thorough sightseeing than group tours permit. A car, driver and guide cost about £20 for a whole day.

Communications: The only place where the telephones work is Bombay. Delhi is improving slowly.

If it is vital to keep in touch with home, book calls or a telex from one of the big hotels.

and bicycles. The men serving them run through the streets with tea and coffee or carry messages and parcels. The famous *dabba-wallahs* carrying lunch-boxes on long poles across their shoulders, sent to office workers by loyal wives. Bombay buzzes with business, non-stop around the clock.

Central Bombay is built on an island and is best enjoyed on foot. Opposite the Gateway of India, a triumphal arch built to celebrate the visit of King George V in 1911, is the domed Taj Hotel, built in 1903 by the Parsee Jamshedji Tata. It is one of the city's few grand Edwardian hotels still standing, and certainly the best and most beautiful place to stay.

Each morning the streets with tea and coffee or carry messages and parcels. The famous *dabba-wallahs* carrying lunch-boxes on long poles across their shoulders, sent to office workers by loyal wives. Bombay buzzes with business, non-stop around the clock.

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An afternoon on Bomby

racecourse is a delight. Meetings

are usually held twice a week in February and March. The course is as immaculate now as when it was first moved to its present site in 1880, with gleaming green and white

flowerbeds planted with blossoming an-

imals. The stylish rich of

Bombay exchange gossip

between races.

An afternoon wandering the busy markets is just as enjoyable. No self-respecting Indian housewife would be seen bargaining for her chilis. She sends her servants, who barter, chat and jostle, getting the best price for their mistress and sometimes a cut for themselves or one of their numerous cousins.

Flowers, fruit, meat and fish are sold at Crawford Market, over the entrance of which is a mural by Kipling's father, J. Lockwood Kipling. Wood-carving, leather, linen and spices are found in Chor Bazaar and jeweller in Javeri Bazaar.

It is impossible to avoid the film industry in Bombay. Posters depicting the porky, fearsome hero and panting, round-faced heroine, painted huge in vivid colours, look down from every wall. They promise a fairytale of colour, love, intrigue and killing, punctuated by song and dance. The formula is well-tried for commercial success.

Indians are mad about the cinema and go whenever they can to catch the latest of the 600 and more feature films made in Bombay each year. Europeans find it easy to understand a film in Hindi: the plot is obvious, and the extravagant sets and song and dance all highly enjoyable. The tourist office can arrange visits to film studios too.

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Everything in the garden's lovely: Ann Pragnell's red and blue quilted deckchair with red frame £45; curved teak garden seat from the Charles Lutyens collection, made to a Lutyens design by Green Brothers, £45; white table from the Archibald range by Chatsworth Carpenters for Liberty, 24in x 48in x 30in high, £225; yellow and white Dallas chair £68.50 from John Lewis and branches; white trolley 20in x 34in x 29in high £29.95 (£2.50 p & p) from Whiteoak Design Productions

■ Buying garden furniture in this country is a waste of money. The minute you put all your money on the table the Great Rainmaker comes out with a royal flush. Which is why I never allow the word deckchair to cross my typewriter before late June. I reckon (without any statistical backing) that if it is not fine enough to get out the sun-lounger during Wimbledon, you have a poor chance of getting your money's worth during the rest of the summer.

The stores would like us all to believe that if we do not snap up the deck chairs before we turn off the central heating there will be nothing left. In practice, the only disadvantage in not making up your mind until the sun does it for you is that you may get caught in the preparations for the sales, which start earlier every year and make shopping for anything appropriate to the season as awkward as possible.

So at this stage of the summer I recommend the General Trading Company, who do not tarnish their image with anything as frenetic as a sale. Their new garden department is a delight - spacious and airy and overlooking the leafy patio where on a steamy day you can stop for a salad and a glass of iced coffee or peppermint tea from the basement restaurant now run by Justin de Blank.

The department is the ideal setting for a new garden range designed for Green Brothers by Charles Lutyens, whose attitude to his craft is that of a painter rather than a joiner. He sees furniture as a permanent feature of the landscape and his designs

Sitting pretty

Beryl Downing puts her money on a long hot summer and her person on garden furniture with a difference

blend perfectly with the country garden.

Several have a distinctly Chinese Chippendale influence - the handsome latticed-back 6ft seat, for instance (£269.50) and the low, wheel-pattern table (£105). These and all the designs in the range are in solid teak, which can be dressed with oil to retain the original colour, but is best left to weather naturally.

Most graceful of all the seats is a faithful version of an Edwin Lutyens design originally made about 1913. It comes in a 5ft six-size, but is more elegant in the gracefully curved seat illustrated, which is 5ft 6in long and costs £736.40.

All the pieces mentioned are to be seen at the General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, London SW1, and can be ordered.

The whole range is available direct from the makers, Green Brothers, Hailsham, East Sussex, (0323 845414), who will send a brochure. Until August 31 their introductory prices are much less than those in the stores - the Lutyens seat, for instance, is £495 including delivery.

For simple sun-worshipping the most practical garden seats

are the white plastic-coated loungers that can be left out during the summer but will fold or stack for winter storage.

The British-made range by Emu is good value and looks particularly smart in the bright green with diagonal white stripes that General Trading have had made up exclusively for them. Stackable chairs are £23.20 and £49.75, reclining chairs £61.35 and reclining loungers £84.50.

Liberty's sale starts on Monday, so the garden department has shrunk considerably, but there are still some examples of white painted, high-backed, slatted chairs with strong overtones of the Arts and Crafts movement. They are made by the Duchess

of Devonshire's Chatsworth carpenters and were designed with the collaboration of Richard Stewart Liberty, exclusively for the store. There are four items: a chair £155, sofa £215, table £225 and tub £95.

If you prefer a young, high-tech look, consider John Lewis' Italian range called, with no apparent relevance, Dallas. In bright yellow and white plastic-coated steel a relaxed chair costs £49.50, a matching two-wheeled trolley is £69 and there are several other chairs and tables.

If you never have the right things to hand for a barbecue, a garden trolley with wheels is a useful dump-all. The one illustrated has a removable top tray and four hooks for tools and gloves. A weatherproof cover allows the trolley to be left out and the whole thing can be dismantled and stored in its box.

Pro Whiteoak Design Productions, 27 Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts (05283 3256).

Those who would like an entirely individual garden chair might contact Ann Pragnell, a new young designer who won the judges' approval for her patchwork chairs at the craft

fair held at Warwick university recently.

There are two styles, a deckchair and a director's chair with padded patchwork upholstery in a variety of colours and patterns with the wood frames stained to tone. Prices are from £35.

Ann Pragnell will make up designs and colours to order; send examples of the colours you prefer to her at 9 Bailey Street, Netherfield, Nottingham (no telephone). Her chairs may be seen at Quest, 2 Smith Street, Dartmouth, in July.

For a finishing touch and as summer is not summer without a little madness, how about the alternative garden gnome - a gigantic and extraordinarily revolting toad? He is 15in high, about 2ft square and is made of fibre-glass, handpainted in the sort of mud-and-slime colours other toads apparently find attractive.

This curiously fascinating creature - a sort of ET with warts - is the creation of a talented display and exhibition designer, Iain Mony, who has just launched a new company producing props for interior designers, stage and television sets and exhibitions.

He specializes in the unusual, imaginative, not to say weird - Oberon's head growing out of a branch of a tree, a nude lady chair whose top is the seat. Everything is made to order at prices from £55 to about £350 (the hamburger) and almost anything is possible in the fields of mural and scenic painting, fibreglass and soft sculpture.

Propaganda is at The Studio, 1 Station Mews, London N3 (349 4193 or 446 2176).

The only safe place for me to picnic is in the middle of a car park dressed in a shroud. Otherwise the most tasty morsel on the menu is inevitably me. Any insect that bites zooms in on any bits of me I dare to leave exposed.

So far I haven't found a lotion that repels anything but people, but there is a battery-operated gadget that you can attach to your belt. When switched on it emits a constant, faintly high-pitched tone that is supposed to be a death knell to mosquitoes, but I find the noise so irritating that I'd rather have the bites than a nervous breakdown. If you are made of sterner stuff, it is called a Mosquit and costs £11.50 from Harrods.

A new mesh mosquito screen to fit sash or horizontally sliding windows is a good idea for hot summer evenings. It is 12in wide and the length is adjustable between 26in and 4ft. You open the window a little more than a foot, position the screen and slide the window back to hold it in place.

One is an old house and absolutely nothing is level, so the bugs managed to find their way through the cracks, but for those with modern sliding windows it could be a boon. It is called Green Screen and costs £7.99 from Army & Navy at Victoria, Selfridges, London W1, or direct.

For a finishing touch and as

SHOPFRONT on picnics

tend to look as if you have had to

sack the butter and are reduced to

humping the hamper yourself.

I prefer a cold box for the food and

an open basket for the tableware.

It is easy to be misled into buying a

cold box that is too big. True, you

can get the wine in too, but it

becomes so heavy that nobody can

lift it. A smaller rigid cold box (they

keep the food cooler for longer

than the soft ones) and a separate

wine cooler is a better balance.

John Lewis (shops (except

Windsor) have Giro Style cool

boxes - the small one is called

model 15 at £9.95, the 20 at £13

and 25 at £17.50 will take bottles,

and their two bottle wine coolers in

green are £19.

Those with particularly thirsty

families might like to consider the

Alaskan Cooler jug with its bright

yellow or Wedgwood blue plastic

casing. It holds eight litres and

costs £7.95 from larger branches

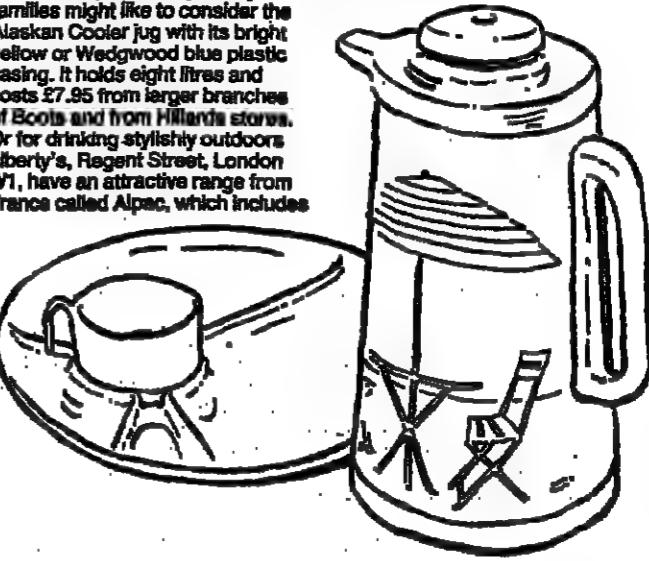
of Boots and from Hillsdowns.

Or for drinking stylishly outdoors

Liberty's, Regent Street, London

W1, have an attractive range from

France called Alpic, which includes



DRINK

Pitfalls of a prize vintage

The 1982 weather pattern for red Bordeaux was pretty well

perfect, with an early flowering

producing lots of grapes, which

with the warm sunny days in

July and August, ripened well;

but it was a fortnight of

exceptionally hot weather in

early September that actually

pushed the '82 claret into the

first division.

Scarcely had the wine fin-

ished fermenting than those all

too familiar French cries of

"vintage of the century" and

"better than the '61" were

heard - and that was why I

decided to go out to Bordeaux

earlier this year to see for

myself.

My conclusion was that yes

the 1982 weather pattern for

red Bordeaux was pretty well

perfect, with an early flowering

producing lots of grapes, which

with the warm sunny days in

July and August, ripened well;

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too familiar French cries of

"vintage of the century" and

"better than the '61" were

heard - and that was why I

decided to go out to Bordeaux

earlier this year to see for

myself.

Pit House, Colehill, Amer-

sham, Bucks, offer some of the

cheapest prices, followed by

John Harvey & Sons, Harvey

House, Whitchurch Lane, Bris-

tol, Adams, Sole Bay Brewery,

Southwold, Suffolk; Lay &

Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West,

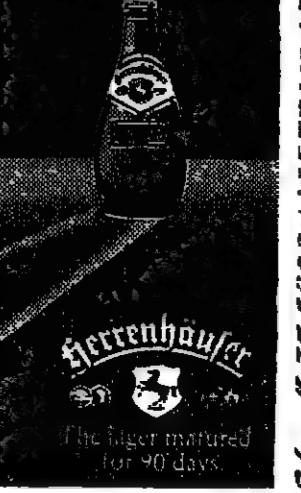
Colchester, Essex; and Laytons,

20 Midland Road, London

NW1, also stock several of these

wines.

Jane MacQuitty



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REVIEW Classical records of the month

Anniversary couple and a Ring losing its lustre

Perhaps one should not raise one's expectations so high. Last year there arrived from Europe a *Rheingold* of strong splendour to whet the appetite, and then a quite astonishingly full, rich and grandly dramatic *Walküre*. The *Siegfried* now added to the cycle perpetuates many of the fine qualities already indicated: in particular, it provides another feast of excellent playing from the Dresden orchestra, who never take anything for granted and a further instalment in Marek Janowski's vision of the *Ring* as majestic expression imposing always alertness to detail, clarity of texture and unpressed forward movement. As before, the absence of "personality" in the conducting, by comparison with other famous versions, makes it possible for the music to execute its own drama, and it often seems that the feeling is most powerful and urgent when no voices are singing.

Unfortunately... this is especially the case in a *Siegfried* of more dubious vocal accomplishment than the preceding *Walküre*. There are no worries about René Kollo's Siegfried, singing in green and golden youth, much more a poet than a tough guy: this is quite possibly the best thing he has done on record, and the long lines are there quite as decisively as the sudden lyrical ejaculations. But around him all is not quite so well.

Theo Adam's Wanderer could hardly be matched for understanding - and there is a lot in this opera for the Wanderer to understand - but his shortness of breath keeps him from any long-term phrasing of question and demand. Jeannine Almeyer's Brünnhilde suffers from the same fault. Together they had brought the *Walküre* to a thrilling conclusion: separated here, they seem to have moved on too little.

However, there are things to admire among the rest of the cast. Peter Schreier is a surprising choice as Mime, but an inspired one. Like Mr Adam, he is of course a singer of great intelligence and also one of keen artistry: he shows for once how in this role ugliness can be sung beautifully and with no loss of meaning, rather an intensification. The set is, all in all, a more uneven achievement than its predecessors, but it still has more than enough of good new sense to recommend it. One tries to calm one's expectations of the *Götterdämmerung* already recorded.

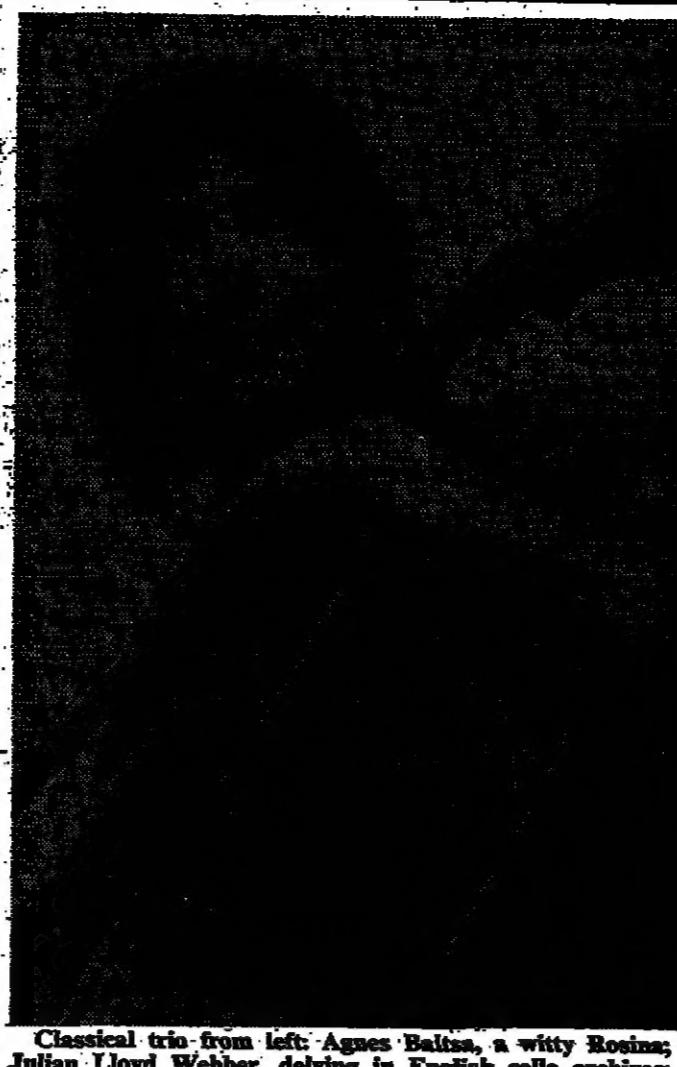
Meanwhile, to honour Wagner's partner in this year's anniversary waltz, there is a new recording of Brahms's

Wagners Siegfried, Siegfried, Siegfried. Solistes, Dresden Staatskapelle/Juncker. Eurodisc 301 810-485 (live records). Brahms Violin Concerto; Kramer, Vienna PO/Bonham. DG 2532 082. Prokofiev: Romeo and Juliet, Suites 1-2. National SO/ Rostropovich. DG 2532 077.

Violin Concerto from two unlikely collaborations: Gidon Kremer and Leonard Bernstein. In fact the combination of extreme fineness and breadth works rather well, and it is fascinating to observe Kremer adapting Bernstein's generous phrasing to his own purposes when he has to. There is also, as in Kremer's recent recording of the Beethoven concerto, an unusual choice of cadenza: not a new one this time but Roger's Prelude in D Minor from his Op 117 spliced into the first movement.

I regret this Roger piece is unknown to me, and I have not been able to locate a copy of it, but unless Kremer has revised it for its new home, it contains a surprising number of memories of the Brahms concerto, quite enough to make it a very plausible cadenza were it not a shade long and even in tone. The principle of trying something else in the cadenza line is,

Paul Griffiths



Classical trio from left: Agnes Baltsa, a witty Rosina; Julian Lloyd Webber, delving in English cello archives; violinist Jacques Thibault

Marriner's impressive sortie

At a time when so much recording of Italian opera seems a matter of perming four singers from a regular pool of 10 or so it is a delight to welcome Philips' new *Barber* this month. The team has been assembled with flair and imagination, spiced with a little adventure. Not only has the company gone for the rising generation of artists, it has also picked a conductor new to opera, Neville Marriner. He has, of course, made records for Philips by the cartload, but his operatic contribution has stopped where the singing begins.

His performance with the orchestra of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields is so fresh and lively that it is extraordinary that to date he has not ventured beyond the overture. But the style that he gives Rossini's score suggests that there will be new career opportunities opening out, not least because of the ease with which he appears to work with the singers and they with one another.

Agnes Baltsa's Rosina has all the temperament that characterised her recent Covent Garden Carmen. The voice is not huge, but it has a cutting edge, and

company, I can only endorse all his enthusiasm. The machine is exceedingly easy to handle and install, even by a mechanical fumblefingers such as myself. The only initial hiccup was a pause between tracks - irritating to have to reactivate play when you are putting the sound through speakers in another room - but this was cleared by the simple means of switching the Pause button to off.

Marriner is much in evidence in the new batch of compact releases, with Mozart's piano concertos K450 and K467, with Brendel at the keyboard outstanding (Philips 400 018-2). Colin Davis's *L'Orfeo da feu* with the Concertgebouw (Philips 400 074 2) is somewhat older, but none the worse for that; DG have just begun simultaneous releases on conventional disc, cassette and compact including this month Bernstein and the L.A. Philharmonic compiling Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the *West Side Story* dances Bernstein and Gershwin have always gone well together. A summing record (DG 401 025-2), especially for those prepared to pay the extra for compact.

John Higgins

Glints from dusty corners

Carlo/Tibaud/Casals, *The Complete Recordings 1922-6*. Opel 815/6 (2 records).

Saint-Saëns: Sonatas No 1/Cello Concerto, Tortelier/de la Pau, EMI/P14571.

Delius: Cello Concerto etc, Lloyd Webber/Philharmonia/Händel, RIAS/P15 9010. Cassette RSK 9010.

Brahms: Piano Quintet/String Quartet, Pollini/Cuarteto Italiano, Philips 5717 010 (three records).

Boccherini: 3 String Quartets, Cuarteto Italiano, Philips 6505 050.

book art, but also a beautifully scaled piece in its own right, while, in the Sussex *Fantasia* originally written for Casals, melodies dart unpredictably in and out.

Yet another contribution to this year's Brahmsfest comes in a new boxing together of the *Quartetto Italiano*'s 1968 and 1971 recordings of his Op.51 and Op.67 Quartets, though the latter is available, too, on a newly reissued mid-price single disc, twinned with Schumann's F major Quartet, Op.41's No.2. The scoop in the box is the Piano Quintet with Maurizio Pollini, hijacked from an earlier DG recording of 1980. It is freshly and stimulatingly thought through, strongly and lucidly worked out, and with one of the most compelling Scherzos I know on record.

In the same reissued *Musica da camera* series as the Brahms/Schumann disc, the *Quartetto Italiano* also present three of Boccherini's Quartets. They faithfully reveal both the delicate but bright and distinctive light and movement of the Op.6 and the more boldly individual voice of the Op.58. Hillary Finch

continuo and a careful matching of articulation of phrasing make the lines come together. Without the wobbly, bulging sounds which disfigure other recordings of this masterpiece, the ensemble can project its passions and torments with a clean edge that enhances immeasurably the music's impact.

There are admirably clean edges and vibrato-less sounds, too, on the *Consort of Musicks*' interestingly contrasted recording on *Florilegium d'India*. These virtuosic, brilliant pieces, which suddenly whip up the most striking dissonances from a line of text, surely require a more soloistic treatment. The *Consort* has decided to treat them as ensemble pieces, and though the matching of the lines and tuning is impeccable, there are times when these light, crisp voices cannot quite match the demonstrativeness of the music.

Godea del sol i rai almost defeats them, though the climax is thrilling, but I loved the intense clashes of *Lidia te lesso*, and the sustained eloquence of the five-part madrigal cycle on side one, where *d'India* almost approaches the opera he never, alas, wrote.

Two further revelations from French *Harmonia Mundi* are the remarkable cantatas and laments of the singer and composer *Barbara Strozzi* (who composed her music a generation after *d'India*) and the *violin* music of *Marin Marais*. The *Strozzi* pieces, with their wild chromaticisms and expressionist devices, are sung with a deft feeling for their eccentricities by Judith Nelson; I especially enjoyed the languorous *lament* *presso a i moli* and *genit*. The *Marais* is another piece which seems lunatic at first glance and offers up its rewards only after a while. *La Gamine en forme de petit opéra* is a strange, very long fantasy on the notes of the scale, parodying Italian forms with great wit.

It is played by London Baroque; when I heard the group play part of this piece in public, I thought it dull and the playing insufficiently projected. But heard again in the close, sensitive recording, the players' clarity of articulation and careful matching of bow-stroke with musical phrase, of dance-tempo with rhythmic movement, make the music spring to life. *La Gamine* is really an encyclopedic anthology of baroque forms, and as such is immensely rewarding; the playing is strongly characterized.

Nicholas Kenyon

PREVIEW Theatre

Critics' choice

AS YOU LIKE IT

Open Air, Regent's Park (0181 2431).

June 25-28 at 7.45pm; matinee

June 29 at 2.30pm, in repertory

until end of Aug.

Not just a pretty production

(Victorian maidens and Thomas Hardy rustics) but a sensitive,

intelligent one, that, in its natural

woodland setting, makes a magic

summer evening. Louise

Jameson's lovely Rosalind holds

the high comedy and the pathos

in delicate balance. John Currie

(Orlando) proves a champion

wrestler and David William is a

superbly distinguished Jaques.

BEETHOVEN'S TENTH

Vaudville (036 5965).

Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed at

7.45pm, Sat at 4.30pm.

Ludwig's posthumous visit to

the home of a pompous London

music critic gives Peter Ustinov a

starting-point for a literate, if

confused, comedy, ranging over

topics like the generation gap,

Beethoven's mistresses, and his

experiences since death. Very

well-received American drama

about a monarch who struggles

against old age but gradually

accepts it.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare

7.30pm; matinées June 28 at

7.30pm; all continue in repertory

Directed by Howard Davies, with

Richard Griffiths, Gemma Jones,

John Thaw.

script carries him from starving

obscenity through Drury Lane

triumph to a drunken death with

style and astringent sense of

irony.

A MAP OF THE WORLD

Lytton (028 2222).

Today at 8pm. Ends July 2.

Last performed for 30 years, Ena

Lamont Stewart's play observes

the unemployed husbands and

overworked wives of 1930s

Glasgow with sharp accuracy and

humour. Giles Havergal's cleverly

non-realistic production is a work

of art in itself, without detracting

from the whole as a deeply moving

and still relevant study of sexual

relations under heavy economic

pressure.

PEER GYNT

Theatre Royal, Stratford East (0181 534 0510).

Mon-Sat at 8pm. Ends July 2.

Simply but thoughtfully staged

by Ron Daniels, this pocket-sized

Peer is surprisingly successful and

enjoyable. David Rudkin's acting

verses transposed into Ulster

speech is richly poetic and

passionate, and Derek Jacobi's

successive personae as blarneying

country wild-boy, opulent

entrepreneur and fearful greybeard

are convincing even in close-up.

Eloquent madrigals with a clean vocal edge

The French label *Harmonia Mundi* is now rivalling our own *Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium* label as a provider of imaginatively programmed, well produced recordings of early music. The ensemble *Les Arts Florissants*, which is supported by the French government and is due to make its first appearance here later this year, has made an impressive series of records: the most recent and most ambitious is this *Monteverdi* disc coupling the mini-opera *Il Ballo delle Ingrate* with the maxi-madrigal *Lagrime d'amante*. Both works were published in Monteverdi's madrigal books, but the soloistic declamation of the former contrasts strongly with the chordal declamation of the latter.

Il Ballo is done on a large

scale, with double the number

of instruments. Monteverdi

specifies (he suggested the

doubling for a large room,

surely and unnecessary device for a domestic recording).

The instruments have been rather

distantly, fuzzily recorded, but

this only serves to highlight the

interplay of voice and continuo,

which is splendidly managed.

Some of the great set-pieces,

such as *Pluto's aria*, are crisply

done; elsewhere some individual

voices are not quite equal to

the demands made on them.

Il Ballo is done on a large

scale, with double the number

<p

ENTERTAINMENTS

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"A THRILLER" *Evening* *Times*

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